

# Omae o Otaku ni Shiteyaru kara, Ore o Riajuu ni Shitekure!

vol.9

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**Novel Updates** 

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## **Chapter 1**

Sunday afternoon. Even though I was on a holiday, I stayed on the bed in my room and was staring at the towering heaven wall without going anywhere.

"I love Kashiwada so much ...."

That did not come from Hasegawa who dumped me. The words that couldn't leave my head came from ...Azuki Sakurai. I was thinking about those words for... several times until now. She likes me ... What about it? But each time I was set by negative thoughts.

I wish that such a cute girl would really like someone like me. And I have this bad habit of over thinking things. But ... it was not a misunderstanding. She really loved me.... I love you. A person who was so cute and kind and gentle, that is what I think of her.... I still cannot believe it.

Even now, the words of her confession ... the feeling of her lips that kissed my cheeks ...never left. When I remember she confessed, I became a happy person, I feel very happy. Of course it was the first time since I was born to be confessed to by a girl. Immediately after being confessed, I was in a state of embarrassment and surprise, but when I remembered her words later, I was so touched that some tears appeared. After being confessed to her yesterday, I crawled into bed in joy.

Sakurai said something like this ... accept it, accept it, I like it. Is there such a thing that makes me so happy? ".....but......" I'm happy ... ... I was embarrassed very much now, so how should I answer Sakurai's feelings..? Since I was confessed to, I must reply.

I love her as a human being and a friend. Our otaku hobbies match well and it will be fun if I go out with her. If I go out with Ms. Sakurai ... just thinking about it makes me really excited.

But ... I was just dumped by the Hasegawa...I haven't completely forgotten about Hasegawa. Whenever I am in shock, I often think about Hasegawa, and I

follow Hasegawa with my eyes in the classroom. I still like her... what am I thinking? I wonder what I am going to do with Ms. Sakurai's confession. What will I do? Will I lie to my feelings and say sorry to Ms. Sakurai?

"Ha ... ... what to do ....."

Today is over, with no word from her. Too many things happened... Inside my head was a mess. Being dumped by Hasegawa, comforted and hugged by Koigasaki...who then avoided me and then told me that we should dissolve our agreement relationship. At the end of the day, I was confessed to by Ms. Sakurai. So....

The shock from the previous events has slightly diminished, but there is still the shock when I was told by Koigasaki to cancel our agreement relation. Would it be impossible to speak with her anymore? I absolutely do not want such a thing, but her intentions seemed solid.... Oh already, my little brain can't handle all these events. I wonder what I should do in the future. No matter how much I thought, no conclusions came.

Next day.

I was thinking too much so I lacked sleep. I tried to sleep during rest periods.

"Kashiwada ~ someone is calling"

".....eh!?"

I was surprised when my girl classmates called my name, I raised my face from the desk, and near the door of the classroom ... There was Sakurai.

"..... o!?" I was surprised that I rushed up and headed for her. Sakurai looked at my face and made a little uncomfortable smile. Sakurai started talking after we moved to the landing stairway where we could not be overheard.

"Yesterday ... ... That was so sudden, I'm sorry"

"Oh, don't be ...." I get nervous when we are alone, and it shows. Her confession and... I also remembered her kissing my cheeks, my face got hotter. Sakurai also has red cheeks and will not look at my face.

"Oh, I'm... Sorry, I was surprised and could not say anything..... I was puzzled by your confession...." If I wasn't surprised, I might have been able to at least

say something while there.

"No, it's okay ...not to reply ..... or something ... ... so soon?"

"I do not want to become a burden ... So do not worry too much about me .... If you have plenty of time, think about it with a light feeling, that is fine.... That's it! I'm sorry for taking your time! "

After Sakurai had her say, she lowered herhead and walked away from the place with a quick pace. It seems like you still care about me even in such a situation ... What a nice child you are. ..... Honestly, I was relieved to be told that my reply need not be soon. Because I could not answer right now. I have to think seriously about Ms. Sakurai further on. To give an appropriate answer.

Please do not go.

I was walking in the corridor to return to the classroom.

"Oh, Kashiwada -"

".... Eh !?"

I was surprised when I turned around after I was called out from behind.

"Koigasaki.....!?"

It was Koigasaki who called out to me. She has been avoiding me recently, so I was surprised to hear from her. I wonder what it is about this time. I was feeling dark since she was avoiding me so I was surprised to be called out.

"I'm thinking about Nikaido's original joint magazine now, so won't you look at it again after I am done? Becauseshe pleaded to me for this, I wanted to write something properly."

I cannot but be amazed with Koigasaki speaking lightly as if nothing was wrong.

"Oh!...Oh! Of course!" Come to think of it, Koigasaki was asked by Nikaido to write a novel for the original joint creation doujinshi. Murasaki, asked me to help her. There were so many things that I hadcompletely forgotten.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Sakurai-san...."

"... ... Why do you look stunned?"

"Oh ... oh ... no ... at the birthday party you said you were going to dissolve our agreement... so you don't need to speak to me...." I was told dissolve our agreement relationship at the party byKoigasaki, and that we would never to speak to each other like before. I was depressed as I thought that it would be impossible to normally speak to her like this in the future. What on earth is this?

"Huh? This story has nothing to do with our agreement relationship"

"Huh....."

My thinking stops for a moment after hearing Koigasaki. The story writing and the agreement is not related... Certainly, it is as Koigasaki said. I wonder how pessimistic I was. That's right ... Because since we dissolved the agreement relation, I will still be able to talk to Koigasaki...!

"Oh, ah ... ... That's right!"

I got happy with the unusual attitude of Koigasaki, and I answered brightly.

"But since I have never written an original novel at all, I do not understand at all what I should do .... After that I was notified by Nikaido via e-mail asking for drafts of the doujinshi manuscripts in detail for the time being. It is a romance story, a story with "Winter" as a theme.... " Koigasaki makes a troubled face with her arms folded.

"Well ... ... Well, first of all, if you want to write such a character, or want to write such a theme, you should research it thoroughly?"

"Well, yeah ... well ... Yeah, what you say makes sense, if it's that kind of thing lwant to write about. I will count on your assistance!

Koigasaki seems to be convinced of what I said, and we went back to the classroom. That was good...... Is it still possible to talk to Koigasaki in the future like this...? It felt good talking to her again...Anyway ... why was she avoiding me until a while ago? Was she somehow listening? I could not ask anything. Besides, why is Koigasaki ... ... in my mind now...? Somehow, I feel just a little bit like an old guy, I feel something is different.... Specifically, I cannot say it properly, or... it is somewhat strangely crazy or it is bright or ... ....No, it's probably just my imagination ... Is it? Anyway, just being able to talk as usual

was very happy for me, so I'm fine.

Three days later.

I still worried about my troubles every day as to what should I reply to Sakurai.

"Oh, Kashiwada, can you come for a little while?"

As I enter the classroom, Koigasaki called me and we left the classroom and moved to the landing of the stairs.

"Here, I tried to write an idea just like you advised" She passed some notes.

"Oh, ah ... ...."

On the cover of the notebook there is "for novel", when you turn over the first page, it said "original novel idea". There was a heading and under it there was written some items that seem to be the story outline in bullets. "Cute snow fairy and high school student boy fall in love." And, "The prince of a foreign country (super handsome) coming to a girls' high school where a student became her girlfriend on Christmas day. Or ... or, "Romantic things" "Winter"

Along the themes is a girls' cartoon-like story that seems Koigasaki likes.

"Oh, there are a lot of fantasy-like things, well, which story seems to be wonderful ... ... Which one is your favorite?"

"Well ... ... the prince story!"

"Oh ... ... Well since that is your favorite, why not write about that for the meantime? Ah, it may be easier to write if you wrote a rough draft or start-up transition before you start writing." When I was an aspiring manga artist long ago, I recalled that it was better to write drafts before actually writing cartoons, I remembered what was written in the book on how to draw comic books, and proposed this to Koigasaki. Manga and novel is different, but the same applies to both when creating a story.

"Hmmm ... ... it is certainly easier for writers to write about what they like... then I will show you again when I write the synopsis."

"Oh, that is better"

"... Though ... I also thought about it, but I like your advice of writing about something you care about"

"Well, okay"

I am puzzled...It's rare for her to praise me....

"Did not you try writing novels yourself?"

"Oh, oh ... oh ... well, I wrote a little a while ago ... but I cannot finish it"

When I was a junior high school student, I just wrote a little on my notebook, but I got bored on the way. That's why I'm thinking that Koigasaki is pretty awesome who will write a novel to the last. I can't tell the person herself because she will be embarrassed.

"I prefer that you help me by advising rather than by you writing"

"Huh ... ... then, isn't that what I am doing right now?" In the words of Koigasaki, I will become her adviser.

"Work and taste advised by \_\_\_\_\_" The work to advise the novel.... In other words, am I an editor? I had never thought of that....

"Oh, and there is another thing I wanted to ask you about" Ignoring the confused me, Koigasaki changes the topic.

"You ... you were confessed to by Azu-chan, weren't you?"

".....Huh?" I was so surprised that I could not say anything because I did not expect her to know about it. How did she know this...?

"I asked Azu-chan, you haven't replied yet, what are you doing?" Koigasaki gave a serious look. Because of this, I cannot read what she is thinking at all.

"Well, what shall I do ...?"

Koigasaki looks at me seriously without diverting her eyes from me. Because she is on good terms with Ms. Sakurai, she might have known that Sakurai liked me from before. That is why she worries about Sakurai-san.

"... Well ... honestly, since I just dumped by Hasegawa ....I still don't think that I can go out with others.... "

I could not hide my feelings in front of Koigasak iwho has this serious

appearance, and I answered with my honest feelings.

"What is that about.....?"

Koigasaki is thinking and whispering...

"Hasegawa and Azuki-chan are different, please think seriously about Azuki-chan and give her a proper answer" Koigasaki raised her face and looked at me with severe eyes, and said such a thing. I was surprised because I did not expect her to say such it in a tough way.

"But Koigasaki ... ...." Certainly ... it may be as what Koigasaki says. But ... still I still do not understand my feelings myself. Do I want to go out with Ms. Sakurai or do I still like Hasegawa ... It would feel bad if I go out with Sakurai without even knowing my feelings.

"Anyhow ... you cannot let her wait for a long time, Azuki has been waiting for a while, so think about Azuki's feelings properly"

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"Oh, ah ... ... That's right ..."
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Surely, Sakurai is too sweet to be ableto wait a long time for my reply.... Four days has passed since she confessed. Meanwhile Sakurai must have been in a state of excitement for a long time. Even I will feel the same if I was in her position.

After school that day.

As usual I kept silent while Hasegawa is writing the schedule for tomorrow on the blackboard. I can't help you just by watching.... While looking at it the scene blankly, I thought about my current feelings. My answer to Sakurai's confession. Eventually ... ... In my feelings, one answer comes out. I don't even know whether this answer was right or wrong. I sent an e-mail to Sakurai when I came home.

"There is something I want to talk about. Are you free next Saturday or Sunday?"

Sunday.

"Sakurai, sorry for making you wait!"

"Oh, Kashiwada-kun!"

Sakurai and I were meeting at Oshigami station at the afternoon. Sakurai sent a reply that she was free on Sunday so I promised to go out for fun with her on that day. Although I was at a loss as to where I should go, I could not consult with Koigasaki because our agreement relation has been dissolved, and so I checked the places where the girls would have fun on a date on the net. The information said that going to the sky tree is safe so I took up that suggestion. Of course, it is also my first time to come to the sky tree. Although I made preparations, I do not have the confidence to entertain Ms. Sakurai.

"Kashiwada, thank you for inviting me today, this is my first time in the Sky Tree!" Sakurai thanked me with a smile.

"Ah, actually this is also my first time..."

"Okay, then let's have fun today!"

"Oh, ok...."

Sakurai-san casually saved me. I thought that I would not be able to entertain her, so I was relieved to be told that we should have fun. Sakurai - san is such a good child, I noticed.

"Oh, Kashiwada-kun ... ... that's your birthday gift..."

Sakurai looked at the muffler I was wearing and was a little surprised. Yes ... I was wearing the muffler she gave me for my birthday. It was the first time I used this muffler. After being confessed to... Whenever I look at this muffler, I remember Sakurai and I was worried about how to reply to her confession ... so I could not wear it somehow. However, today I thought that it would be rude to wear the muffler she got for me on our date, so I wore it.

"Oh, yeah ...It's warm, since it's getting cold all at once, it is very useful"

"Really? That was great! I am glad you used it at once!" She said exaggeratedly.

"Wow, the cars look like minicars!" We looked at the outside scenery from the window on the 31st floor of Tokyo Sky Tree. It is expensive to go up to the observation deck and it was said that there is a long line so I decided to compromise by going up to the highest point where we can go for free.

"The scenery from here is beautiful!"

Sakurai who is enjoying the scenery looks happy and I also smile.

"Which way is the school?"

"Well ... which one ... oh, oh, is that it?"

"Well! It is not that close to your house?"

"Eh, that's right? I do not understand it at all ... ..."

"Hehe ... ... Oh, let's check with the GPS of the smartphone!"

When two people are talking brightly like this, it seems ok if nothing else will happen. But, it is no good. Today, I have something to say to Sakurai. For that reason, I came here....

"What shall we do next?"

"Er ... ... Look around the stores, after that, there seems to be a planetarium here and ..."

"Well, the planetarium! I want to go there!"

"The Planetarium, did you say...?

"Yes, yes let's go! Let's go!"

I was puzzled for a moment but I pretend to be fine. Planetarium.....Is that where couples go... isn't it? Withthatthought, I was surprised for a moment. Two people in the dark, side by side looking at the stars ... what can be more exciting. However, Sakurai does not seem to feel the same, and she has a strange look as well. I am too conscious...that's me. I wish I could act more naturally.... As the next screening is about to start, I immediately bought tickets.

"What!?"

"No, today ... I invited you to give my thanks to Ms. Sakurai for celebrating my birthday. So ... let me buy for now."

After I purchased the tickets, Sakurai tried to refuse while being embarrassed. After that I said that she will pay a couple of times afterwards, so she stopped resisting.

"Oh, thank you...."

"No, thank you ... when you went with me on my birthday, thank you so much." To my words, she smiled.

We entered the hall and sat side by side in vacant seats.

"...."

As soon as we sat down, we keep silent. It would be funny if you do not feel excited about having a girl sitting close to you. Maybe Sakurai-san is also nervous....? Eventually, the inside of the hall gets dark, and the high-pitched sounds of my chest becomes more intense. I wonder when I last felt that.... Oh, that's right...When I went to see an animated movie with Ms. Sakurai, I felt the same nervous excitement due to our close distance in the dark. At that time, even though I'm playing, I was worried about the case of Gokusaki's Gokon and went over there, I wish.

.....Wait. Perhaps, at that time, Ms. Sakurai already told me...? Wow, if that's the case, I did a terrible thing...! At that time, Sakurai may have told me. I am sure she used a lot of courage. And yet, I let her get away... what a bad guy! I guess that I hurt her deeply at that time. After that, I also felt that Sakurai-san was avoiding me ... ... It is natural that she avoided me because of that. What a fool I am. ..... I can't afford to hurt her any more. Today is so much fun, I feel like I'm fine as it is, but ... I do not think there is any good reason. After all ... absolutely, it is useless if you do not do it properly. Eventually the screening of the planetarium will start.

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"Oh, it is starting...."
"! Yes..."
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I am excited hearing her voice near me. I can't help but admit that I think that Sakurai is attractive not only as a person but also as a girl. —When I first met her, I thought she was a bad child. But, after knowing about her more, the reasons for Sakurai's attitude, I realized she was really a really good child.... There were so many good things about Sakurai. She is always trying hard, kind and not forgetting to care for others. She thinks in a straight line, and although usually shy, she is bold enough to cosplay, and her cosplay figure is very attractive...I recollect some memories of her I was getting emotional in my

memories that when the romantic music of the planetarium played, I was in tears.

"I had never been inside a planetarium, but I was impressed! How about you, Kashiwada?

"... Eh! Yes ...I was also impressed...." To be honest, I should have watched it more but because I was not concentrating, I hardly remember the content.

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"... ... Kashiwada-kun, what's wrong...?
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"Oh ...? ...... Ah... Yes ..."
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Sakurai's face gets red at my words. She guessed that I was about to enter the main subject of today. I felt guilty about Sakurai's expression, but today is the day I have to say something. We looked for a place to speak, went outside and came to a garden called "Dome Garden". Fortunately, few people are there so we were able to speak with privacy. Since some benches were set up, we found a vacant bench.

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"Wow, this place is amazing, the sky tree looks so close ... ...."
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"Well, that's ... ...." Sakurai's expression is cloudy.
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"...."
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We sat in silence in the awkward atmosphere for a while. I have to say something to her.... I have to say something...

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"Oh, Sakurai-san ..."
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My voice is trembling. Sakurai's face, which was looking at me, looks about to cry. When you see such a beautiful face, it's extra ... ... painful.

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"So seriously I... I thought... ...."
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<sup>&</sup>quot;Oh no, no ....." Sakurai looks at my dazed face.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Sakurai, if you do not mind ... can we talk for a little while?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Yes ...!!"

<sup>&</sup>quot;First... thank you for your confession... You made me very happy ..."

<sup>&</sup>quot;Kashiwada-kun, you...!!" Blocking my words, Sakurai raised a voice.

".....Huh?"

"Well, beyond that ... you cannot say any more ...!!"

Sakurai looks at me with a blank face.

"Sakurai ... ..."

"I am as happy as it is .... I'm happy enough, that I confessed and I've thought Kashiwada liked me...I was worried that Kashiwada might avoid me because of this...that I cannot talk to you anymore...I was worried... " Sakurai's words pierced my heart.

So she is very worried about her confession....

"So today, both of us have been going out happily again ... ... It seems like a dream, I do not need any more." Sakurai's eyes are in tears, yet she still smiles at me.

"So... So...From now on ... can we still be good friends?"

"Saku...Sakurai ..."

Today, Sakurai ... I intended to convey to you my honest feelings. Sakurai-san is attracted to me by a great extent. But ... I have not shed my feelings for Hasegawa yet. So now I still cannot go out with Sakurai ... ... I intended to say so.

Perhaps she may have perceived what I am trying to say. She is crying now because of this. She said that she is happy just being able to be friends with me like this. I still cannot believe it.

This cute girl is suffering and crying at my words. I just thought that I do not want to hurt her any more. Looking at her now crying, that feeling is getting even bigger. I noticed. There is nothing, there is only one method that does not hurt her. There is no other way to ease her sadness. Taking that method, surely she will smile. Besides, I can be happy.

"... Kashiwada-kun...?" I held her hand. I noticed Sakurai-san's hand is trembling. She has a bold behavior that I know is far from ordinary. I thought it was because of her love. I wanted to embrace her. But I did not have that courage, so I just held her hand. I want to make this child happy. For this...

"Sakurai If you will accept me Please go out with me"
She was listening to my words, she could hardly believe it, she kept looking at my eyes for a while holding her eyes wide open. Soon she seemed to understand my words at last
"

Again, big tears fell down from her eyes.

there is only one answer. I took a small breath and looked into Sakurai's eyes.

### **Chapter 2**

"Naoki? Are you okay ... ...."

As soon as I got home, I rushed to my room.

"Wow, what a stupid brother!?"

Ignoring the voice of my sister, I got into bed and rolled around my sheets. .....I made it. Since I was born, this time, I did it. To be honest ... ... was this good? This is what I am asking myself.

Has Hasegawa been completely blown out of my mind? I did not plan to do this. But ... ... I'm more than happy now My heart is full of Sakurai - san ....It was full of her for the first time. Her crying face, her smile that sticks to my eyes and does not leave. After telling her that I want to go out with her, how many times did she cry? She cried and asked me again, when I nodded she smiled with tears in her eyes.

"Really... It seems like a dream ..."

It was my first time to feel such a feeling. I did not feel this from both my first love when I was a junior high school student and when I started to like Hasegawa.... It is not a love like "admiration" but a feeling of "love". I was watching Sakurai with that kind of feeling. I was filled with passion. I want to see her smile, I want to protect her, I thought so. Since we sat on the bench until she settled down, I kept holding her hand. When she stopped crying, I went with her to her house since it was a little late. While going home, we were very embarrassed and spoke very little to each other.

"Sakurai ..."

I lied down on the bed and called her name. In my fever, I embraced the scarf that I got from her. Actually ... I wanted to hug it. But she is the one crying, not the muffler.

"..... o!?" Suddenly my mobile rings, I was surprised and got up. When I looked at the display, there are the characters "Sakurai Azuki"......

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"He... Hello!"
  Unexpectedly, my voice gets stiff.
  "Oh, Kashiwada-kun!"
  "Yeah! Sakurai-san!?"
  "Yes, Okaytoday... Thank you for sending me that ... ....
  Besides, I sent her a handmade gift.
  "Has Kashiwada arrived home safe!?"
  "Oh, yeah, thank you ... ... Thank you for today!"
  I am nervous as well.
  ".... Um... Actually, I slept just a little while ..."
  "Huh? Well, is that so!?"
  "Yes ... .... When I got back to my room, an amazing sleepiness hit me ... I
think that's because I was short of sleep." Lack of sleep...? Well, maybe ... ... Did
you not sleep yesterday? ..... Was she afraid of what I might reply....? Today
she acted calm, but ... it was probably due to her anxiety that she was forced to
take that attitude?
 "So, if I wake up now... Maybe I thought that everything was a dream ... ... I
got anxious and immediatelycalled you..."
  "Fh!?"
  Everything...I bet she's talking about yesterday's events in the sky tree.
  "Sakurai-san ... ...."
 The feeling of love comes up again. What happened yesterday was that it?
  "It's not a dream" I told her clearly.
  "I am also very happy ... that Sakurai-san ... ... became my girlfriend ..."
  "Keke ..... Wow, I am, too! I am also.... No, I'm sooo much happy! What shall I
do..... I will cry again ..."
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Until just a few hours ago, she was just a friend .....now I love her as if I had no other choice. No ... ... I surely was attracted to Sakurai for a long time. But ... I was ignoring her because I was pretending to like Hasegawa.

"...Kashiwada-kun ..."

"Oh.... Sakurai ... from now on, please accept me."

"...y...yes! You are right, thank you!"

After that, we had a little love conversation and hung up.

"...."

I closed my eyes while on the bed. And then, I remembered.

"Kashiwada-kun ... you're changing, are not you?"

Beautiful straight black hair. A calm and beautiful voice.

"Thank you ... I also want to be friends with Kashiwada."

That time ... I was happy for that.

"Whether you are an otaku or not, Kashiwada is an important and irreplaceable friend to me, strong and trustworthy ... that cannot change."

From the start I have always been in love with my classmate..... Hasegawa Midori. Her cute face, her smiling face, her crying face. All of them, I missed them all, I had no choice. I wanted to go out with her someday and kept thinking of becoming a boyfriend of Hasegawa.

But ... it is the end of that today. I have to forget about Hasegawa. From tomorrowonshe is...just a classmate. I was happy, because I liked the Hasegawa. I got hope for my high school life. There were times when it was painful ... ... More than that, I felt a lot of fun. I opened my cell phone and opened the mails from Hasegawa, which had been protected until now ... ... I read them slowly....then I erased them. Every time I see each piece of mail, I remembered the happy memories of that time. I'm so sad, I almost cried. Thank you for the happy memories, Hasegawa....

From today...I will make fun memories with Sakurai!

The next day

"Oh Naoki, you are excited again today, what's the matter?"

I got up earlier than usual and I was struggling with the wax in front of a sink. I read back the magazines I bought for the first time in a long while, it said that that the wax should be two tiers of soft and hard, so I tried practicing immediately. Last night, I closed my memories with Hasegawa and thought about Sakurai. After thinking about Sakurai, I got excited and became too became energetic. I finally fell asleep in the morning, but still I woke up early.

".... Well!"

As mentioned in the magazine, the wax need to settle for thirty minutes after I dried my hair with a dryer, and my hairstyle was done a little later than usual. You can do it if you want to do it, me!

"Wow, what's that awful smell in the morning"

"Oh, yes, in the meantime I have the eaten ice cream so I will buy some today, do you like plain chocolate?"

"Ha!? What!? Who are you!? Really Naoki?? When it's time to talk about ice cream!?"

"Naoki ...... I feel so bad today ..."

"Oops, I have to make sure not to forget this ... OK, I'm going!"

I gently swept the muffler she gave me to around my neck, greeted my family and left home enough earlier than usual with a refreshing mood. While listening to My List of "I love songs" edited yesterday on the iPod (I gathered the love songs that I think are good masterpieces), rode my bicycle quickly to the station. Oh, when you have the right songs ... ... your tension will rise! Well, mostly, they are Anisongs, Vocaloids or Bocaro songs. I parked my bicycle in the bicycle parking lot. I got one email.

"From: Sakurai Azuki Text: Good morning! I am somewhat pleased and I could not sleep well yesterday. (\*^-^\*)"

"Huh ..."

I raised my voice unexpectedly. I thought about emailing her but her mail already came...!

"Good morning (^^)! I was also happy yesterday and I could hardly sleep! "

I sent my reply at high speed. ..... I cannot sleep, I cannot say anything even if my mouth is ripped...

"Oh, Kashiwada!? Today your hair style is quite exciting!"

Arriving at the seat, Kiritani praise my hairstyle,

"Oh, Kashiwada? Wow, you look like a different person!"

"Eh!?"

One of the girls in a group who was talking behind the classroom turned to look at me. It was a girl who I had never talked to before, so I am surprised and cannot say anything. I seem to be stupid, but even then, I cannot just call out to such loud girls....

In the girl group was Koigasaki, and she was watching me with a surprised expression. I also thought that I would call her for something, but I said nothing. Instead, I laughed at my mouth only. What is it, that reaction.... I felt like I was going to take as much class as possible, but I hardly slept most of the night so I felt drowsy during the class and almost slept the whole day.

..... Today, I was careful not to follow the back of Hasegawa with my eyes. Eventually the lunch break came.

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"Kashiwada, you're buying lunch today?"
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"Yeah."

"Kashiwada - some girls are coming ~"

"Eh!?"

As usual, my name is called by our girl classmates and all eyes are turned to the person behind the classroom door. There ... as before, was Sakurai outside the classroom......

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"Oh ..... Ms. Sakurai...!"
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I was astonished to see her look different from usual. Sakurai had her hair tied

twice and closed with a hairpin. Thanks to that, I can see her pretty face that she hid before.

"Hey, it's cheeky for Kashiwada to call out to girls!"

"What the hell is this!? She's pretty cute! Do we have such a child our grade!?"

Kiritani was surprised to see Sakurai's appearance and shakes my shoulder. I realized that Sakurai had a bag and a box lunch on hand and that means she wants to go eat lunch with me. Well, that's right..... If you have a boyfriend usually you eat lunch together...! Oh my, I completely panicked!

I stand up from my seat and head towards her.

"...Kashiwada... No way...is that girl ... your girlfriend!?"

Kiritani questioned me in surprise.

"... No, that's impossible...suddenly you...got such a cute girl ..."

"Fu...sorry Kiritani, I can't eat with you guys today."

".....Huh?"

"I will eat lunch with her"

"... Ha...ha!? Is she your girlfriend, Kashiwada?"

Because Kiritani gave a loud voice, the students around looked at me.

"She is the girlfriend of Kashiwada?!?"

"Oh!! The one in the doorway! I can't believe it! She's super cute!"

All the loud voices doubted my relationship with Sakurai....but I'm not surprised by it.... I would also doubt it if I wasn't involved...Damn, with such a noise, Hasegawa...by reflex, I turn my eyes to Hasegawa. Hasegawa did not seem to hear the noise, as usual silently eating lunch in her seat.

.....Why I am concerned about Hasegawa!? I should not care of what Hasegawa thinks....I should not hide from Hasegawa ... really, I am stupid.... In the moment I decided to forget everything and brought my bag and moved to Sakurai quickly.

"Sorry...I did not call first...did you plant to eat your lunch with your friends?"

Sakurai looked at my eyes with a worried look. When I see her again up close...she really is cute! Her usual hairstyle is nice, but this new hairstyle is better! Her face was usually hidden by her bangs, but the hairpin today showed the cuteness of Ms. Sakurai...this will make other boys fall for her. Already Kiritani and other boys are saying she's cute.... I fell superior for having such a pretty girlfriend, but I might become becoming uneasy if Sakurai is going to be targeted by other boys.

"I am OK! I also wanted to eat lunch together with Sakurai-san ... ...."

"...Kashiwada-kun...!"

Sakurai saw my face gladly. Her eyes are sparkling and shining. How cute are you to react like this just to eat lunch with me.....

"Kashiwada-kun, today's something .... is really cool! Ah, you're always cool, but ...especially today ...!!"

Sakurai shyly said such a thing, I blushed instantly. I'm cool.... such an embarrassing thing If you are told face to face, you will be shy! But she noticed that I put effort into my hairstyle....it was worth the effort to get up early.

"Oh.... Oh, thank you!Sakurai has such a cute hairstyle today......"

I told her, with my face getting hotter. Hearing my words, Sakurai's cheeksreddened and looked away in embarrassment.

"Oh, thank you ... Kashiwada-kun... I thought you like these hairstyles ... ...."

"......Huh?"

I was surprised by what Sakurai – san said. Hasegawa's normal hairstyle..... is a descending long black hair. This hairstyle...looks like Hasegawa's hairstyle...? Sakurai knows that I liked the Hasegawa. Well, did she bother to copy Hasegawa's hairstyle....?

"Ah, that's cool in a lot of places! It's outstanding!?"

".....eh!?"

I turn at the familiar voice.

"Momo-chan!"

Then I noticed Koigasaki standing, was watching us with a smile. I was remarkably attentive from the corridors and the students in the classroom but I completely forgot her existence....

```
"I...I.....watchadoin here!?"
```

Sakurai has a red face and protests against Koigasaki.

```
"Yeah yeah, ok....ok....!"
```

Koigasaki starts teasing Sakurai. As embarrassment caught up with us, I wonder how Koigasaki knew about this.

"Once again, congratulations"

Koigasaki tells us with a gentle smile.

"Momo-chan ....."

"Koigasaki ... .... You, you know...!"

"Ah, that ... ... I told her on the phone yesterday ..."

"Oh, oh, so that was it!"

I see, Koigasaki already knows about us.....

"You were able to get such a super-cute girl, so try hard to make Azuki happy!"

Koigasaki struck my shoulder sharply.

"Mo...Momo-chan! What are you saying!?"

"Oh ... oh, oh ... that's right!"

I am thankful for the words of encouragement from Koigasaki. When I returned her smile, Koigasaki gave another gentle smile again after having a look like she was a little surprised.

"Kashiwada-kun ... ... Have you brought a boxed lunch today?"

Sakurai asked me when we decided to move to the cafeteria to eat lunch, after we broke up with Koigasaki.

"Oh no, I have not brought any lunch, I planned to buy something."

"Well, actually ... ... Today, I also made lunch boxes for you Kashiwada ..."

"What?! Seriously?"

Sakurai smiles and hands out the lunch she had in her hand.

"Wow, I am very happy, there is ... ......"

While I was deeply moved by her handmade lunch box, I suddenly remembered something. Sakurai's cooking....? By the way, Sakurai's level of cooking is about the sameas Koigasaki (low level)! At the birthday party, I still remember the trauma from her eating her handmade pound cake.

"Hey, Kashiwada-kun!? I am embarrassed! Don't make that face!"

Sakurai looked at me stiffening as I turned pale, inflated her cheeks and made a sound of relief (cute).

"Okay...okay...."

"Surely this is different! Because my mother helped me out!"

"Oh, that's right ... ...."

I have a strange feeling I messed up. I'm glad ... ... then I am relieved a little.... Going to the table, we faced each other and started eating lunch.

"Even though, I did not expect you to make a boxed lunch!"

Because of yesterday, Sakurai, I'm really excited then you have this new hairstyle and now...

"Wow, it looks okay!"

I opened my lunch box and I was surprised as I made a rude comment. The lunch seemed to look ordinary and delicious.

"Please eat it immediately!"

"Yeah, I will!"

But still, I carefully took a bite...although it looks good, it might taste different

"... ... Good!"

"Kashiwada, why are you surprised!"

Sakurai-san was looking at me with a slightly hurt expression.

"Oh! I am not surprised!"

To be honest, I was very surprised. Thanks to her mother's help, the lunch tastes ordinary but definitely better than the pound cake last time.

"But is this okay ... I actually made it for you and I made it as instructed by mother, so it must be delicious, isn't it?"

Sakurai smiles bitterly. Indeed, it was that something like that...? Still, I'm very happy that she worked hard and borrowed the power of her mother for me.

"Oh, did you also make your lunch by yourself?"

When I looked at Sakurai's lunch, the contents were almost same as mine.

"Ah, yes, that's right! The side dishes are slightly different, Kashiwada has fried chicken and I have a wiener!"

"Oh, it's true! The wiener looks delicious!"

```
"..... Ah, that ... ... Kashiwada ... ..."
```

Sakurai suddenly makes a face red and lifts the wiener sausage stabbed in the fork. That hand trembled slightly, I wonder why.

"This ... ... that, if that's okay, eat, eat ... let's eat ....."

Sakurai's voice is gradually getting smaller while gradually getting a red face. I cannot hear what she last said for it was too soft.

"What was that?

"Bobobelmonte (talk) 10:10, 13 May 2017 (CEST) つ! It's nothing!"

Sakurai said and she made a bite and started chewing vigorously. .....? Well, what the heck was she...? Eventually, we finish eating Sakurai's handmade lunch.

"It was really delicious! Thank you"

"That was good ... ... In fact, there is one more thing I have made ... ...."

Sakurai took something out from the bag.

```
"This....."
  "Madeleine.....?"
  Sakurai was holding a delicious looking Madeleine cake in a transparent bag.
  "If you do not mind ... would you please try eating?"
  "Oh, yeah! Of course!"
  Maybe she also made this with her mother? Not only she treats me with
boxed lunches but also gives me sweets ... What a nice girl she is. Happily, I bite
into the Madeleine.
  "...... Guhua!
 At that moment, I felt like dying....this is...the taste of something in my
memory..... That's right, it is almost the same taste as the pound cake I ate at
my birthday party!? The cake is now a Madeline but the taste is exactly the
same. It has almost no taste and has captured all the moisture in my mouth...
this sharp texture.....!
  "Gaha....Bocha.....Goh...."
 The Madeleine sticks to my throat, suffocating me. I swiftly drank a large
amount of PET bottle tea. Haa, Ha ... ... I thought I was going to die...
  "Kashiwada, are you OK?"
  Sakurai looking into my face worriedly with watery eyes.
  "Ha, ha ... ...I'm okay..."
  "So it was another failure ..... I thought that I succeeded because it looked
good, but ... I'm sorry."
  "... did not you cook this with your mother?"
  "Yes ... ...last night, I made it while my mom was sleeping, I made it quickly, it
was a secret from her..."
  "I'm sorry .... I will stop making sweets...."
  "..... No, please try again"
```

".....eh!?"

"It's not bad at all, it's going to be delicious if you continue practicing.... I hope someday I can eat delicious sweets made by you someday, I'm waiting patiently."

"Kashiwada-kun ... ... Thank you! Thank you! I will do my best!"

Sakurai looked happy and she smiled. ..... As I said to myself, I made a terrible comment..... I have to do think better in the future...But I was glad that she took the trouble to make sweets for me, so this was good. Eventually the lunch break ended.

"Um ... ... Kashiwada, if it's okay... well can we go home together?"

"Well, of course!"

"Good, then, see you later!"

Sakurai shook hands with a smile, then we parted.

Oh ... ... how wonderful she is...

#### After school.

"Sakurai, sorry for making you wait!"

When I left the classroom after finishing home room, I saw her in the corridor. Sakurai gazes at my face while thinking something silently.

"...Sakurai-san ..."

"Oh... that ... I wish you change...from calling me "Sakurai-san "... Can you...?"

"Eh!?"

"Although I don't dislike it... but, since you are now my boyfriend ... ... I'd be happy if you call me something a bit more affectionate ..."

Shyly she said this. True... a boyfriend calling his girlfriend by her surname, it's kind of stupid.

"Of course! Well then, what should I call you...?"

"Well ... ... preferably, my name ... ...."

Given name...... That means "Azuki"...? No, suddenly abandoning hurdles is

hard. There is something wrong with establishing the name of Azuki-san under the name......

"Well, then, is Azuki-chan okay ...?"

I never called Koigasaki with a -chan, but I thought it would be easy...but I felt shy as soon as I voice it out loud. If I think about it, I never called girls, other than my younger sister, by their name because I am too shy to do it.

```
"... Yes...!"
```

She reddened after I called her by her first name. She is petty even with trivial things ... What are you thinking...?

"Well...if it's okay ... ... Can I also change the way I call you, Kashiwada-kun ...?!"

"Oh! Oh, of course!"

"Well then ... ... can I call you, Naoki-kun... Is it okay ...?"

"Yeah, that's OK!"

"Ehhh ... ... it is settled! Well then ... ... Naoki ... let's go home!"

She laughed embarrassedly and started walking. I walked next to her side.

"Well .... Sakurai ...can you change your way of speaking?"

"Ha!"

To my proposal, Sakurai ... no, Azuki-chan looks at me as if surprised.

"Not that..... I think that honorifics are also cute ......But since I am your boyfriend, you don't have to speak polite language ..."

Sakurai..... No, Azuki-chan ....let's just leave it as Sakurai for now until I get used to it. Because Sakurai is an Otaku, she will use polite tone even to other Otaku girls, but for me who is a boyfriend, she should use casual language. That's how I thought that I wanted it.

"Well, that's ... ... OK! I understand, I will try hard speaking casually! Please don't tease me..... I'm having difficulty speaking without using honorifics immediately ..."

"Ha ha, I will not say you should change immediately but I'd be happy if you gradually change."

"Yes, I will try it little by little!"

..... I changed my way of calling her, changed the tone of speaking ...... something is going on and I feel good! It is a day for such changes to occur in three dimensions.... I could not even imagine it.

"Oh, Naoki, can we go someplace out today?"

"Go? Of course I am free but ..."

Ms. Sakurai proposed and we decided to go to the game center. Because she says that the last center we went to for my birthday didn't have it so we went to another center. I just followed her.

"Are you feeling too well today?"

"No, today is a great day... ah, there it is!"

Sakurai looked around Kyorochiro and Gaesen, and she seemed to find what she was looking for and went to it.

"Naoki ... shall we do this together?"

Sakurai was pointing to a Primula (Picture booth).

"Well, ok..."

Purikura: ... It is the second time I took a photo with Ms. Sakurai. I really wish for a print.

"Ah, I will go all out today, too!"

"I also want to take photos, I am OK!"

Sakurai stopped me from paying the full amount, she paid half of the 200 yen price. When I took the photo last time, I paid in full, so I today I get to pay only half.

"Well then, then how about a pose ..... I, I have not taken a Prismatica since then ... so I am unfamiliar as ever ..."

"Naoki!"

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".....eh!?"
```

"Kasha!"

The moment when the shutter sounded, Ms. Sakurai.....suddenly cuddled me. My head hurt when I felt her soft chest.

```
"..... つ!?"
```

"Ehhh ... ... I really want to take a cherryprints of a couple... sorry"

Sakurai smiled embarrassedly with her tongue out.

I didn't have time to react as the time is counting down for the next shot. Sakurai-san suggested bold posed...... for example me giving her a princess carry or something. I also wanted to do bold things, but I didn't have the courage, and the countdown of the shot finished in the blink of an eye. In the end, except for the first one, the other pictures are tame. Sakurai picks out a pre-set design for a postcard, and soon it's finished.

"Wow ... this is more embarrassing than I thought ..."

I see blurted after seeing the first picture. Sakurai - san is hugging me with a full smile to me. I looked surprised and have a serious face. At the bottom, Sakurai has written "LOVELOVE" Wow ......what a true couple picture.... It's embarrassing!

Sakurai who after looking at the finished picture, gazed at me with her cheeks dyed red.

"I'm embarrassed...!"

"Huh? That is, because ... something like this, looks like a couple ..."

"....? Doesn't it look like a couple ...?"

My words made Ms. Sakurai's cheeks redder. Cha, when she makes such a reaction, I will be more embarrassed with my remarks.

"But, its okay ... ... I absolutely want to take a couple picture with you..." She tells me.

"Don't worry ... are we also playing games?"

"Yes!" After that, we played and I lost to her again.

"Ah, I never won at all.....even against a girl...."

While leaving the arcade and walking the way to the station, I was sad.

"Director-kun!"

".....Huh?"

Suddenly she called me and I turned towards her. My Smartphone was pointed at me and there were several shutter sounds.

"'Naoki's face after losing in games' photograph!"

"Chi ... ...! What, Suddenly?"

"It's the memento of our date!"

A memento for our date a little while ago....I was surprised for that unexpected photograph...but I decided to forgive her because her statement was cute.

"Well then ... shall we go out again?"

"What?!?"

"Yeah ... ... how about tomorrow, where can we go for our date?" ... I remember being taught that the boyfriend should take the lead and I was trying to think of a suggestion...

"Well...even we don't go out, I'm still happy! Ah, then ... Will you come to my house tomorrow? My mom will go home a bit late tomorrow... "

"Huh?"

A strange voice came out of my surprise and excitement. Oh, mom will go home late....? In other words, Sakurai and I will be home alone.....?

"Oh, not good? Would it be better to go out to play somewhere else..."

"Oh no no, I will definitely go!"

Oh, calm down....えええ田田直輝! No matter how much I think...... I feel we are going too fast! Ibelieve that Sakurai innocently invited me to her home without thinking anything else...but....

Arriving at the station, we parted ways. Tomorrow, I am going to Sakurai's

house.... Okay, I'm getting too excited right now.....

An email comes on my way home.

"From: Sakurai Azuki Text: I got the prepared image I took today, so I will send it (with attached file)"

When I opened it, Sakurai's picture was an image of her hugging me. It looks a little embarrassing when I look at it. But, I am glad. Really, we are going out.... This cute girl in this picture is my girlfriend.... While looking at it again, I see the picture as pretty. This happens because I am with you. If another person sees this, I might be too embarrassed.... However, I should not be. Look at my cute girlfriend! That is how I should feel.

Pic P43

#### Next day

"Sorry for intruding...."

After school, I really went to Sakurai's house. By the way, last night I dreamed of too many delusions regarding today, so I hardly slept due to excitement.

Her house was a beautiful apartment.

"Well, is there no one home? How about your brother or sister...."

"Oh, I'm an only child,"

Is that so...... By the way, I have never heard Sakurai talk about her siblings. When I think about it, there are quite a few things I do not know about Sakurai. Now, I want to know more about her.

"My mother will not return until about 7 o'clock so please relax!"

Seven o'clock...I unexpectedly swallowed spit. In other words ... ... It's just past four o'clock, so I wonder we are really alone in this house for about three hours...... No nono, do not hurry! It's too early to say anything! Sakurai absolutely did not bring me here for such a thing...Do not be hasty, stay calm and keep your cool! Sakurai brought to me the living room. By the way, she is a hairstyle that her hair is pinched hairpin and hair down today.

"It's a beautiful house, isn't it?"

"Since Naoki will visit, I hurried cleaned it yesterday!"

Is that so...... I thought there was a big difference from my house, so I was relieved. That time, I also cleaned a lot before Sakurai and Koigasaki arrived.

She brought drinks and sweets prepared them on the table in the living room.

"Well then Naoki, please wait here a bit as I change my clothes, so it may take a bit of time. You can watch TV or something."

```
".....Ah, ok....."
```

She went from the living room. Take time.....? I think that she will only change from her uniform, but why will take time? Has 30 minutes passed? I was eating sweets and playing with my cell phone, but I was honestly tense being alone at the girl's house, so I kept track of the time she was away.

"Sorry I made you wait!"

"Oh... .... What...!!"

I was astonished to see her appearance in the living room. Sakurai .....was wearing a cosplay costume. That also ... ... the character's cosplay is called AegasakiNono" from my favorite game "Love Minus".

"I asked Momo-chan about Kashiwada's favorite Nono-san.... how is it ... ... I am sorry that I do not quite resemble her..." Sakurai was standing in front of me uneasily and embarrassed like that ... ... It was my favorite "Mr. Nono" herself. Their styles are similar and the hairstyle and face also resemble (thanks to the wig and makeup), so it looks she just jumped out from the game. Truly an awesome cosplayer....

"No, no, you two look alike! You look very similar!"

"Is that true?"

She gladly said so, sitting pretty beside me sitting on the sofa.

"How is it Naoki, having a date with Nono at Nono's house?

She looks into my face a bit naughty at a close range. Black tights peering from miniskirts are burning my eyes. Even though I am look calm, my heart is

banging loudly...I cannot help it.

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"Oooh, yes ...yes ..."
```

As it is, I fall into the illusion that I was at Nono's home, dating her. Her cosplay had a high degree of completeness.

"Well, Naoki, this is your welcome first celebration at my house! Yes, yes!"

As Sakurai approached me, I got out my smartphone and started taking pictures.

"Oh, it's not much but I think I did well!"

She looks happy, I show her the shots I took. More memories..... Really, I like photo shoots and photographs.

"... but, why are you doing this again ...?"

"Well, I want you to be pleased ... ... What can I do for Naoki to be pleased?I thought about various things. I tried cooking, but I still cannot do it well by myself.... As a result of that, I thought that if I cosplay, I could do itwith confidence! "To please me, she put on Cosplay....

"Oh, that ... ... Naoki! If you have a cosplay of the character you want me to do, do not hesitate to say! Even if it's a cosplay with some slight bare skin exposure, you can tell me, Naoki....I, I can do it! "

```
"..... つ!?"
```

She was so excited that she seemed to have a nosebleed on her bold statement. I am pleased with that feeling and acts. However......

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"Oh, Saku ... .... Oh, Azu-chan"
```

"I am very happy about cosplay, but ... that, if I if it is not my favorite character, as long as its Azu-chan..."

```
"Huh....."
```

In this case, I decided to say what I wanted to say since yesterday. "And I also wanted to tell you about your hairstyle.... Yesterday and today, both are pretty cute, but are you...copying Hasegawa's hairstyle ...?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Yes?"

"..... Ah.... Did you notice?"

".... Yeah, but I already ...gave up on Hasegawa.... now I'm Azuki's boyfriend ... as your boyfriend, I'm very happy and you don't have to imitate Hasegawa.....You are the one I like the most ...... " Suddenly tears dropped from her eyes.

```
"!? ... ... Azuki-chan?"
```

"Naoki is ... ...who is your favorite now ... ...? ...I want to hear again..."

"Huh.....?"

"Well, I still cannot believe it ...... Naoki is going out with me ....... That is something that I thought....if I become like her then Naoki would like me more..."

"Oh, Azuki-chan ....."

"Ohh...!?"

I was unconsciously holding her hand with both my hands. She was desperately trying hard to be liked by me, it was loving and intense.

"Oh ... .... but now ... the one I like the most ... is Azuki-chan, so ..."

To make her feel secure, with a shivering voice, but clearly, I said.

"Oh..... Naoki-kun ..."

When I looked at her face, she cried more than before and her face was getting messed with tears.

"I cannot believe it .... I am very happy ... and I, too, in this whole world love you the most...!"

When she said that, she grasped my hand with both hands.

"Oh... ... It feels like a dream ... From the day of the sky tree, I guess I have been dreaming ... ....Naoki who I loved so much, that you became my boyfriend ... ...that you said that you also like me, " While crying, desperately, she said.

"......that's what.... I was talking about a while ago, I want to cosplay for you, but ..." While holding her hand, I said to her.

"Cosplay is nice too, but if possible ... no character, just Azuki-chan is good enough for me...."

```
"....."
```

At my words, she is a little surprised.

"Wow, I understand now! You want a cosplay of me, don't' you?!"

"eh!?"

With that sudden and powerful sentence, she got up from the sofa with a confident expression. And, she went out of the living room again.

"No, I did not say 'do a cosplay now'..."

Well, I love watching her cosplay, but I.... When I was left alone, I heard a noise from one corner of the room. Looking at the place, was a cat. A pretty cat with gray coat.

"Wow, a cat .....! I have not noticed until now ..."

I could not have heard anything, so it might have been asleep. Azuki-chan, you kept a cat.....? ...... Oh, I, unknowingly ... ... I should be able to call herAzuchan naturally......

"Thank you for waiting ~!"

"17"

She appeared well and she was in maid dress. The uniform where she worked. I went to that maid cafe only once before. I was not aware that Azu-chan worked there at that time. By the way, it seems that she understood my previous words, and her hairstyle was back to the usual two knots. After all this is the hairstyle that I like the most.

"When I think about cosplay costumes other than characters, I have only this ... ... I'm sorry I do not have others..."

She says with a smile a little shyly. Maid clothes are becoming famous nowadays. There is strange feeling of cuteness. ..... And this maid outfit has its chest part partly exposed, a design that emphasizes the chest..... Even though the first thing I noticed is the chest area... I also noticed that the skirt is short,

the hemline is knee high. Well..... Oh yeah, if you are wearing such a thing, I think that she should quit working at the maid cafe. I cannot tell her that because it is just my desire to monopolize her.....

"Naoki-kun, what's wrong, don't you like my maid outfit?"

```
"No...No ... ...."
```

At that time I was trying to deny, Azu - chan realized that the cat was moving at the corner of the living room and happily told me to call her. ..... Ginger-chan? I follow her and come close to the cat.

"Azuki-chan's cat, is the name... possibly ..."

"Oh!? ... .... Oh, yes ... I borrowed the name of your favorite character ... ...."

Being embarrassed a bit, she confessed..... She held the a cat on her lap and is cutely stroking its jaw

"Naoki, do you like cats?"

"Oh, I like them, but I don't keep one."

"Do you want to hold her?"

"Eh!?"

She placed the on my knee..... "Gin-chan." "Gin-chan" is fairly resting on my knee. "I am very pleased that you can play with her.... Ho, *Ginger* " Azuki brought a toy to the cat and moved it a little in front of Ginger. Gin tries desperately to strike the toy. Oh, cats and Azuki is a pretty combo, I am healed at the scene... That was what I thought.

```
"Huh ..."
```

"Gin-chan suddenly leapt to the body of Azu-chan ... Dragging down the chest portion and baring some flesh..... "!! ??"

For a moment, her white, big, soft-looking chest ... ... was exposed!

<sup>&</sup>quot;..... Oh, Ginger-chan! You got up!?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;....!"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!"

Azuki immediately covered her chest and it was only for a moment that I saw it ... ... It was my first time to see a girls' breasts, and all the blood in my body gathered to my lower body with the excitement. I was attacked by a sense of excitement. "Did...did you see it!" "No, I have not seen it! I have not seen anything!"

Pic P50

Cat GuggioOhioo of obs! Thank you! Thank you!

"Then why are you so bright red?! You absolutely saw it! Naoki...ecci...baka!" While covering her with her hand, my girlfriend is blaming me with teary eyes.

"Wait, that's wrong!"

"Why are you looking at the floor suddenly!?"

"No, this is... ...."

Because it cannot be helped Oh! I have not done anything! What a bad cat! ...... It is easy to say, but I did not have the courage to say such a thing. When I looked at the culprit that brought my girlfriend to tears, "Gin-chan" looked bored with the look of not being involved. Then ... after Aka-chan cursed me thoroughly, she seemed to be feelmuch better and managed to recover from her restlessness somehow......

After that, we decided to look at the late-night animation in October that Azuki is recording. We sat side by side on the sofa in front of the TV.

"Naoki is also reading the original," Kuroko's football." Are there many male fans?"

"Oh, yeah, I think there are a lot, I know Suzuki is reading this as well."

What an ideal geek couple...to be able to watch anime with her at her house. I am happy to have an Otaku girlfriend ... ... I thought it was a nice feeling. Eventually, the second phase of the anime "Kuroko's football" begins.

"Ha ha ha ah ah つ! Huang Peak-----!"
"....."

As soon as a yellow-headed handsome character appeared on the screen, my

girlfriend, who is still wearing the maid costume, got excited at him. Oh............

No, well, I do not mind ... But I think she should hold back at her excitement when her boyfriend is present.

Or rather ... ... I do not want to be jealous of a 2D character, but it is such a complex feeling. However, this situation ... it seems to be somewhat distracting...... Oh, that's right, when I was watching this anime with my sister, she also got excited for "Huang Peak". The handsome character seem to be popular with girls.

"... Naoki, why do you look somewhat cranky?"

Azu-chan seemed to have noticed my reaction to her excitement....

"No, no, no..."

After replying, I thought again. I reflected on my action...a little.

"... ...Well that, maybe a little... ...."

".....つ!?"

On her sofa, she bends towards me, holds my head and looks into my face. ...... Hey, don't look at me closely while dressed like that! Even though I thought you are so angry earlier! The chest of the maid costume hangs forward, and exposing a little of her white chest. It's a very erotic costume...... Well, if she doesn't bend over that much, there is no worry that someone will see....

"Naoki ... you're jealous, are you!?"

All of a sudden, for some reason she was happy to say such a thing.

"Oh no, I don't want to be jealous of a 2D...."

"Naoki ... you're too cute ~ つ! Tsundere Boys Moe Moe!"

She grabs my clothes, her eyes shining brilliantly, making such remarks with excitement...that's my girlfriend.

"... Well, what is that now...?"

I feel miserable when you say it like that.

"Hey Naoki, my feelings for 2D and 3D are completely different!"

"Huh.....?" Azuki turned serious look and started talking to me. "I like cute Moe 2D idols....I like them, but I it's different when it comes to 3D.....My feeling forNaoki.... is very different from that ... ... I love you, I love you so much, I'm thrilled to just stay with you ... .... That ... well, I cannot say it well.... my feelings for Naoki ....." Azu-chan makes a red face and makes her look dizzy. "... Oh, is it love?" "Huh!" I instinctively blew out. When I heard that I am too embarrassed! ... ... of course, I'm happy, though.... "Wow, huh, terrible! .... Seriously ...!" Azuki-chan, her face red starts hitting me while having teary eyes. "Sorry, I'm sorry!" Azu-chan stopped hitting, suddenly becomes serious and gazed at me gently. ".....? Azuki-chan ...?" "Ah, that ... ... Naoki ... ... just a while ago, I got angry you... I'm sorry." ".....Huh?" "Naoki was not at fault...." I noticed that she was talking about the incident with the cat from a while ago. "As it was a sudden thing, I was surprised, but I just got angry to hide my

embarrassment ... ... I, I,in truth, if it was Naoki ......its ok to see..... " ... .... Eh!?

I was excited when I heard her and I realized that my face turned red immediately. I am surprised; I turned my body to Azusa-chan suddenly.

"Oh, Azuki-chan ..."

"Okay, that's because ..... I am Naoki's..... that's..."

My cheeks are dyed red and I look up at my cute girlfriend. After all that, she

doesn't mind......? No, no, I am thinking too much! Calm down quickly Kashiwada Naoki נזנונו!

I gently grasp the shoulders of Azuki. At that moment her body trembled tremendously.

"Ha ha.....! Well,that's right..."

..... No, at least ... at least ... this is not bad.....? We're going out with each other, and I'm in her home, what am I doing...... As I seriously looked at Azuki's eyes, she seemed to know what I was going to do.... While puzzled, I looking at her face...her eyes.....slowly closed. Oooooooooooo!! Oh finally ... Finally ... this time...! Little by little, I move my face closer. When lips began to touch her lips........

"Gatchach"

Suddenly, I heard the door of the apartment's entrance opening.

"[?]?"

Azuki opens her eyes quickly, jumps to the floor and the floor from the top of the sofa instantaneously with a light body struggle.

"Mother! Mother is back! What shall I do, if she sees me in this dress ...?"

Azuki seems terribly upset, runs from the living room in a hurry to remove the maid costume. I was left alone, I was sitting still from the shock from earlier. What the heck happened....?

Kuh..... I was just about to kiss her lips..... Oh oh oh!?

"I'm home~"

I shake myself as I hear a voice that seems from Azu-chan's mother....Soon I heard footsteps approaching here. I get up from the sofa in a panic, I instinctively sit on the floor. Hey Azuki! Why did you leave me here alone!? I feel awful おおおおお! My heart made such complaints as the door of the living room opened heartlessly.

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"....!"
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<sup>&</sup>quot;Oh, sorry for intruding...!!"

For the time being, I sit upright and corrected my posture and greeted Azuki's mother. Azuki's mother looked surprised to see a stranger inside her home. Looks like she came from shopping, holding plastic bags in both hands. She was slim, has short hair, wearing jeans and her eyes look similar to Azusa-chan.

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"Er, um ... ... hello ... Are you Azuki's ... ..."

"Yes, I'm her friend!"

Standing straight, I immediately replied.
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"Oh, okay, that's right ... ... Azuki is ... ...."

Although she talked with a smile, Azuki's mother is looking at me as she is upset. Looking at this situation ... Azuki-chan did not tell her mother that I will come today. So that's why Aki-chan herself was in such a hurry a little while ago...?

"Oh, now ... ... she just went to her room..."

It is awkward! Azu-chan, come back soon \_\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ 0 I heard loud footsteps and Azuki who changed clothes has returned to the living room.

"Oh, mum!"

"Azuki! Don't leave your friends and go off somewhere ..."

"Oh, ah ah ~ ... .... Oh, here ... ... it's my school mate... Naoki Kashiwada!"

"Hello! I will be in your care!"

I stood up and lowered my head to Azuki's mother. I don't know what else to do in such a case...

"Oh, what a polite friend... Hey, Azuki, if your friends are coming, please say properly! Then I could prepare dinner properly ..."

"Oh no! Please don't bother! I am already leaving!"

Azuki's mother tried to stop me but I felt awkward, I insisted on leaving.

"Well, sorry for bothering!"

"Huh, be careful and go home"

I walk along the way to the station with Azu-chan.

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"Naoki .... I'm sorry for today....."

"Oh, it's ok...."
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I am still in shock over the attempted kiss, so I was in a light state of embarrassment.

"Next time... when there is no mother ... ...." Azuki stretched out and whispered a secret story to my ear.

"!!"

Her words instantly turns my face red. My tension, which had been falling so far, came up again fast. I am a simple person.

"Well, see you tomorrow!"

"Oh ok... ... tomorrow then!"

When I arrived at the local station, I received an e - mail from Azu - chan.

"Sorry ... Actually, today I did not say to Mom that Naoki will come..." As I thought...

"And I did not say what my boyfriend did.... I told her I had lunch with my friends. So after that, my mother asked me a lot of questions (laugh). She said having a boyfriend is ok, but it is still early bringing him at home. What would you do if your father blames you! I was told that.... I insisted that we did not do anything ... (> - <) I'm afraid I will be stuck home for a while ... I'm sorry "(;;)

Oh.... and after that.... I mindlessly stayed at home for a while.... if Azuki's house is not good, will she go to mine...? However, at around 5 o'clock, both Okaa-san and sister are usually at home, so it may be tough.... I have not even told my family...... Bukkake, I'm embarrassed and cannot say anything.

Okaa-san will surely tease me..... Oh, because Akari knows about Azu-chan, she may say..... Somehow I am embarrassed about it, so I can't bring myself to tell them yet.

In other words, why have I stayed home for a while? I will keep it a secret.....

Haa.... No no no, I never thought about that kind of thing before.....!

But.....what shall I do for the meantime...?!?

I recall each event that happened on that day. Nono's cosplay figure, the maid costume, the cat and the costume accident, her crying face before kissing......

Oh.....looks like I won't be able get much sleep....

## **Chapter 3**

Next day. I went home with Azuki-chan for three consecutive days. Today we are inside a fast food place.

"So, this weekend I will have a part-time job on Saturday ... are you listening, Naoki?"

I was looking at Azuki sitting across me, remembering the excitement I felt when the cat got into her maid costume.

"... Oh, yeah, yeah, I heard you,"

"Our first holiday date!" Looking at her, she still looks cute while being angry.

"So, Naoki, how about you?"

"Oh, I ... ...."

When I opened my cell phone schedule, the next Sunday was not good.

"Sunday, I have my part time job ... ...."

"Well then, we can't go on a date this weekend ...."

"What? How about Saturday!"

"I already said I have my part-time job on Saturday! You didn't hear me!"

She works in...Tsukai Byte, a maid cafe. I imagine her in that erotic maid outfit being ogled at by others... it's annoying me

"Naoki, what with that scary face?"

"Oh no, nothing... ... Well, then, next week? I am not going to have any work next week."

"Well, next week ...... Saturday I have plans to go with my friends, but Sunday is vacant!"

"Well then let's go somewhere next Sunday!"

I just take out the magazines I put in my bag and spread it on the table. ""
Tokyo Couples Date Navi "......? Naoki, this is ......" It was a magazine in which
Tokyo's date spot was posted. I bought it at a local bookstore on the way home
from Azuki - chan's house yesterday.

"I checked that we could go even yesterday! Also, there is a lot of recommended Christmas dating spots here! Let's decide where I will go!"

I opened the magazine with a dopey face and showed it to Azuki. When I came back from Azuki's house and thought about what I could do for Azuki - chan to become a better boyfriend. While thinking about various things, I remembered being told by a certain person that the "Dating course should be decided by a man", which is why I dared to buy the magazine. I thought it was convenient because there were lots of people over here than on the internet.

"Wow, you bought that?" Azuki sees the magazine gladly. It was good, I am glad that ... ... It was worth investigating.

"Oh, there is a page with a fold, you checked it?"

"Oh yeah! Christmas, it is good to go see the Christmas lights like a couple! We can go to Tokyo Station or Omotesando. We can see the Christmas lights and I even have money to go to ... a theme park or the amusement park! We have not been to an amusement park yet! Azuki, what do you want to do, where do you want to go? "

"Naoki....this is awesome ... ..." Azuki is looking at me with a surprised expression as I talk hotly while reading the pages of the special Christmas date feature page.

"But why suddenly put yourself up like this ...?"

"I cannot go to your home for a while, so we will date out? I thought that I should look at various ways to be together! "

"No, Naoki ... I am so happy ...!!" Azuki-chan looks at me as if she was moved.

"Oh, Christmas Please think about what I want now! I recently made some money, so I think that I can buy you a wonderful gift! "

"Err ... um ... yeah ... that's fine, gifts ... \_\_\_\_ 0"

"No, no! I'm got a lot from my birthday, so many things! Really please do not hold back and say what you want!"

"Naoki ...." After saying, I looked at Azuki's reaction. I have zero experience and I don't have anything much to offer Azuki-chan, so I have to work hard. I do not want Azuki-chan to be disappointed I me. If Azuki-chan sees the true miserable form of me, she may be disappointed ....that is what is worrying me now.

Oh, I'm glad I got advice from that person in the past. I remember her advice and it should be okay if I do my best. In fact, I still want to consult with that person, but now that the agreement relation has been dissolved, now I cannot consult her hear any more....

"..... Hey, Naoki ... ... I'm very happy with your feelings very much ...." Azuki starts talking with a smile that looks a little troubled.

"Yesterday Naoki, you told me that I was just fine as I am, didn't you? I'm glad that you are doing your best but please don't overdo it? You are OK enough as you are, right? " Azuki told me such things with a smiling like the Virgin Mary while holding my hand with both her hands

"Oh, Azuki-chan ......" Her smile was shining beautifully. ..... After all she may be a real goddess .... I seriously thought about such a thing. Oh, it's my girlfriend's is really the ideal girlfriend. She said that I, as I am, is enough for her....

"So, I do not really care about the presents, etc. On Christmas, let's think about where to go! Also, I am looking forward to the next Sunday's date! If I am with Naoki, I can go anywhere!"

"Oh, yeah ...!"

"But this magazine is very useful as reference for date for the future ...hmmm? What is this fold in the back page... "?

"Oooooooooooooo!"

Azuki discovers the fold on the page behind and tries to grab the magazine using full power.

"What?! ... ...! Naoki, what are you suddenly ...?!"

"Well, oh well .... Well, I made a mistake in making that crease, ahaha...."
While sweating a lot on my forehead, I desperately tried to get the magazine back into the bag.

"What are you hiding? What was on that page?"

"No, nothing!"

"Baka! Why did you make a crease...!"

At the back of that magazine ... ... what it was, since this is a couples' oriented magazine, a hotel's information together with night's activities was listed on it. Oh, and it was close to the place! The price is cheap here! Do your best to go! ...... I thought while swallowing up my delusions and I was reading the magazine last night with great excitement, but I was unconsciously making a crease.

"It that was a page you don't want me to see don't make an obvious mark like that!"

The next day.

December started today. Outside has freezing cold weather, but recently my heart is always warm thanks to Azuki. (What are you talking about....) For the moment, I noticed that I was completely forgetting something because my head was full of her for the first time with such a feeling.

"Koigasaki"

After school, I'm reading a magazine at my desk, I call out.

"Hmm?"

I move my eyes from magazines to her, and gave Koigasaki an appropriate answer. By the way, my fear of talking to this person in the classroom is gone. I used to get nervous in the past, but ... I may be more confident in myself than before ... ... maybe ....

It is the time since I cried and Azuki said "Congratulations" to me a couple of days ago to exchange words with her. It's almost three days in the past, but I do not know why I'm still afraid of talking with her after all this time. Nothing has not changed except that we dissolved the agreement relation, it is supposed

that our friendship will remain unchanged..... I feel like something heavy was lifted from my mind in the last few days. Perhaps, I am thinking too much.... I feel that I will be able to speak more freely before .... I feel a lot of nostalgia at that time. I still think that I would like things to be like that.... Koigasaki kept silent and looked at my face and started talking.

"Your....hairstyle looks well enough today, and recently, you are doing your best, aren't you?"

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"Ehh.....! Seriously ..... !?"
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Oooh, I am being praised! It was worth the 30 minutes for setting your hair style! I worked hard on my hairstyle everyday ever since I went out with Azukichan. Of course the reason is because I want to look cool for her.

"So, what?"

Koigasaki praised me for one moment only, then spoke in an incomprehensible tone.

"Oh well...how are you doing with the novel?"

For a moment, I wondered the topic should be discussed only after moving to the roof or somewhere else, but as it is about the writing of the novel of creation, it is not Otaku talk so we can discuss it here. I still think it is necessary to hide my being an Otaku.

... That's right. I completely forgot about the matter of this creative doujinshi's manuscript. Even though Murasaki asked me to help.... Since I saw the story a week ago, I never saw anything else....it is the first time in a week that the novel topic came up. Was it that I forgot or was it Koigasaki?

I wonder why she did not call me out. She said she will show me the synopsis after she is finished. I wonder if the outline has been written, yet?

"Oh ... .... Yeah, I finished writing the synopsis, so I started writing the novel now"

"You said you would show the outline to me before you start writing the novel."

"Eh....."

Koigasaki for a moment, looked awkward.
"... No ... ... you seemed to be busy ... ...."
"Huh.....?"

I was busy? Me? The only thing if I can think of recently is going out with Azuki-chan.... Perhaps, this is her meaning of me being too busy?

"Well, if you are doing well so far, my advice may not be necessary any more, but ..." While receiving a slight shock that my cooperation may not be needed, she should be able to write with her own power. I wonder.....

"I don't know if it is going well ... there are plenty of places that I think I could use your help.... Well then, I will bring the manuscript tomorrow, so why don't you look at it? You can give me advice then."

"Ohhh, oh! Of course!" I was pleased to be relied on by Koigasaki.

Even without talking about the novel, I wish we could speak normally...... Was she still refraining because Azuki-chan and I started dating? Why does she have hold back like that... it was fun talking to her like this, just like the way we used to. Although I want to be... anyway, it won't work. Why you are you refraining? I felt sad.

"....."
"What, what ... ... If you have something to say, say it clearly."
"Oh, no ... ...."

How should I say it? 'Please don't be shy and let's talk just like before'... I can't say it.

To be honest, I wonder how Suzuki and her boyfriend is doing now, I am worried ... ... I have no idea whether I can ask after our agreement relationship has been dissolved.

"By the way, you are being Azuki-chan's boyfriend properly?"

While I was thinking, Koigasaki asked me

"eh!?"

"You used what I taught before, right?"

"Oh, ah ... ... It feels strange calling her by her first name since we are dating..." Changing the way we call each other's names did not surprise her.

"Well, it doesn't matter now! Azuki-chan's Christmas gift, what do you think is good? I thought that games based on Azuki's favorite animation or an anime DVD would be best but..." But wait, if Azuki-chan likes to play games, is it Otome gay or BL gay? Can a man give his girlfriend a 2D man as a gift? Even though it is 2D, I am not very happy. Giving a BL gift, gives me conflicting feelings...... No, I do not mind that I am buying it myself.

"...... Eh, ...... Haa! Games for Christmas gifts!? DVD!? You're seriously saying that?" Koigasaki listens to my remarks and begins to blame me with a surprised appearance.

".....!"

How long ago have you called me out this strongly? You were like this when we hadour agreement. Somehow this sure feels nostalgic.

"... What is wrong with you?"

"Well, what is wrong, then?"

I am being cursed and I am rejoicing. I am hopeless.

"So why is it not good to give a game or a DVD?

".... Ha ha... I thought you will give a handmade gift but this is no good at all ... You don't know anything! Your first present should be...since its Christmas, it should be something that sets the mood for it. A nice gift from a boyfriend could be a fashion accessory and so on! For Azuki, a necklace or a ring is good. Or you can buy something in pairs for couples!"

".....! Well, certainly, those are certainly better than giving games as gifts...!" Oh, it was nice for her to talk to me this way! Since I don't know anything, I might have bought BL Games or whatever! Seeing that I am convinced, Koigasaki looks amazed.

"Ha ha ... ... I'm worried about the future ... I hope Azuki-chan does not get exhausted having to put up with you..... Also, your hair has grown quite long?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;...yes...!"

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"So you will go to a barber?"
"I don't understand ..."
"Where will you have it cut?"
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"Local hairdresser...."

I decided that my hair would grow and have it cut it there. Okaa-san brings Akari there as the place is reasonably priced.

"Well, I guess it's time go to a more fashionable hairdresser ... ... How about you, where do you go for your haircuts? Can you show me...."

"...Ha ha ... why should I introduce you to my hairdresser ...I can't help you. Don't forget, our agreement is already dissolved even though I still helped you with your Christmas present as you are so bad at picking one."

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"Ugh..."
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Finally, I was told ... ... the thing I was afraid of... Ha ... I guess she absolutely wants to get rid of our agreement...I hate it, but ... even if I told her my feelings, she would not change her mind about dissolving our agreement....

"Kashiwada ~! You got her!?"

Then someone suddenly hugged Koigasaki hugged from behind. It was Sasagawa Miki, a friend of Koigasaki.

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"Miki, you're heavy ..."
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"Oh, oh, yeah ... ...." Even though she is embarrassed, she said it.

"And it looks like a super cute girl!"

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"Ah ... ... well, well ......"
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Sasagawa is a friend of Koigasaki, so she doesn't mind talking to me, but I still feel slightly nervous around her.

"What have you been up to now?"

"!?!?" Sasagawa's unexpected question almost made me blow out. What is with this person! Is she really a woman!?

"Oh!" Still hugging Koigasaki, she elbowed my belly repeatedly.

"Miki, don't be so vulgar" Koigasaki tried to help me..... But is she suddenly looking sick?

"As expected of Kashiwada ... It's been a while ... have you done it?"

"Whaaa!"

I remember what happened with Azuki the day before yesterday and I am shaking. I was excited at that time. Even now I still can't sleep.

"Uwa! You're getting super red, Kashiwada! Seriously! From that reaction, have you already done that?"

"That's different ... ...."

At this time, I tried to deny the words of Sasagawa.

"Gahaha ......I'm so happy!! I do not know, peach!"

Suddenly, Koigasaki took a head shot at Sasagawa. Then Koigasaki was exhausted, pulling off the body of Sasagawa from her, and started walking away from us.

"..... Koigasaki...?"

"Your conversation is too serious"

"Peach ~ Wait, wait!"

Where are you going...? How did this conversation between the three of us become uncomfortable for her? Her attitude feels a little childish... anyway....

Later, when I tried to go home with Azuki....

"....!"

Hasegawa and I suddenly came face to face. I am uncomfortable...The face of Hasegawa, this is the first time I have seen her in a few days.

11 .....11

Looking at my stupid face..... Hasegawa kept silent. Somehow..... I feel it was my fault.... It was me who diverted his eyes as a result of being unable to withstand the meeting. I went past Hasegawa and left the classroom. ..... I

wonder if this is going to be like this for Hasegawa for the rest of the year? Not long ago ... As a friend, we were able to talk happily and go out together somewhere ... ... Now, that sounds like a lie. Even though Hasegawa said that I was "an irreplaceable and valued person ...".

It was not anyone but I myself ... that created such a situation....

Of course I do not think I would like to go out with Hasegawa anymore. Azuki is now the one I like the most. However, ... I really did not want to be estranged with Hasegawa this way. I want to return to our previous relationship where we were friends. I want us to be able to speak casually. I am also worried about the problem of the family of Hasegawa and I would like to hear from her.

"Oh, Naoki! You came pick me up at the classroom! ... What happened, something seems not right...?"

"Well ... it's nothing ... ...."

Saturday after two days.

Today I was at Umesanto's fancy hair salon.

"How do you feel today?"

"Ehh, um ... ... make it a bit shorter overall ... .... Oh, please make it a fashionable hairstyle!"

To my remarks, the hairdresser is laughing. I made embarrassing remarks.....Do I sound desperate? I was not able to make Koigasaki introduce me to a hairdresser so I asked Suzuki instead. Suzuki seems to be going to a hairdressing salon where her sister's acquaintance is doing, so he said that it would be cheaper if he introduced me. It was good to consult with Suzuki, as it was supposed to help lower my expenses. Yesterday, Koigasaki brought the outline of the novel she wrote and also the manuscript to school and gave it to me, but said that after reading it, to send my advice through e-mail then left. Although she didn't look angry wind, I was concerned she was in a bad mood.

After I finished reading everything, I sent my comments and advice by e-mail, and a cheerful reply "Thank you, okay" came. What is with her attitude at school ... what the hell is that guy. Did I make him conscious, such as to offend him? I do not remember doing anything at all....

"Thank you for your hard work ~ How do you like it!?"

It seems that the haircut has ended while I was thinking, and the hairdresser spoke to me.

"..... It is a good feeling!"

While I was being damped and cut, I hardly looked at the mirror. When I looked at it again, it looked like a good hair style. I feel like I'm different from what I usually do with a hairdresser. It was worth coming to Umesanto on a holiday. Walking to Harajuku station, I met someone.

"Oh, Kashii, you just had a haircut!"

Waving a hand to me with a smile was ... Suzuki. It's been a while since I have seen Suzuki in private clothes (last time was when I visited him at his home), he is stylish as ever. Jeans dabbled on a navy P coat, feet wearing fashionable gray sneakers. His bag is a backpack but it is something obviously different...it looks more fashionable (I do not know exactly what is different though).

Speaking of myself, I bought my clothes on Amazon during this time, a black cardigan on a gray shirt that was once praised by Koigasaki before the party, some jeans underneath, so far this is good ... but on top of that, I was wearing a cheesy black down jacket wearing from junior high school, to fend off the cold. Because of the cold, I have to wear a coat or a jacket. It can't be helped, but this is the only jacket fit for today's temperature. Everything is ruined because of this fuzzy jacket. Such a fashionable guy and I was ashamed to walk next to him.

"Suzuki, sorry for bothering you today ... ...."

"No, no, but what happened suddenly? You want me to take you to the clothes shop that I always go to ..."

I was planning to have Suzuki introduce me to a nice clothes shop today, as I was planning to buy some. As it became impossible for me to rely on Koigasaki, I was thinking of borrowing the power of a fancy and handsome guy like Suzuki here. Even though I went to Hanjiro with Koigasaki before, the thought of going alone and failing is hanging over me. I have failed several times before so I do not want to repeat the same mistakes.

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"No, that ... ... in fact ..."
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While walking around the streets of Harajuku, I reported my circumstances to Suzuki.

"What?! Seriously?"

Somehow this person seems not to be interested in love, so I thought he won't be that interested – but I was surprised about Suzuki's unexpected reaction to my remarks.

"What? Someone in school! Who ....."

"Sakurai Azuki from D class... you know her?"

"Sakurai ... ... I do not know her"

I felt that Suzuki was talking about something different, what was it? ..... whatever.

"Can you describe her..."

"Eh, um ... ... she is cute ......her style is nice ... .... Oh, she is an Otaku and not rotten.... a really good child ......" ...... What nostalgia is this!

"Wow ~! If she is also an Otaku, it might be fine to meet up, that was good, congratulations!"

"Oh, ah ... ... thanks...."

"I came here for something else, but I got something more, it seems..."

"Oh ... .... So, you are ..."

I can't hear from Koigasaki so I have to casually listen to this guy.... Because I already have a wonderful girlfriend called Sakurai Azuki, I was not supposed to be shocked to ask how that Koigasaki and Suzuki were.... Even if Koigasaki and Suzuki are going out with each other....... No... Oh, it is no use ... Even though I imagined for a moment, I am totally shocked.... I'm useless.... I should have no feelings for Koigasaki, that should be the case ... Because both Koigasaki and Suzuki are my friends, it's just a shock...... Yes, that's all ... no serious reason. ...... There can't be more that.

".....Kashii? Suddenly your face became dark...."

"Oh no, no! ... Well, since I decided on a holiday date, I need fashionable

winter clothes. I need to borrow your stylish power... "

I avoided asking Suzuki about Koigasaki. Next time ... there will be another opportunity.

"Oh, I see. I am not that fashionable, but I guess I'll show you the shop I always go though."

"Oh, I will take your advice! Because I do not want her to be disappointed on our first date, I want to dress fashionably! I brought some money today, I want to buy a whole outfit! I am just a fashion beginner, so I'm strange, please tell me Master! "As I can no longer rely on Koigasaki, there is only this guy I can depend on.

"Seriously? Haha ... ... well OK... Well then for now, we will buy coat, bags and shoes buying today"

"Eh! Coat and bag and shoes!?"

"Yeah, I think your pants are good, and it would be better if we can get the coat, bags and shoes to match."

"... ... Hmm, I see. ...."

The bag that I have today is just a dirty black body bag. My shoes were purchased before summer vacation, shoes with sharp points.... I understand what my shoes did not match my clothes, but I only have only sneakers such as Dan ● and ● Emperor that I wore in middle school and school loafers.

Under the guidance of Suzuki, the first place we went was a store named "WEGO" on Takeshita Street.

"I often come here? It's cheap and recommended" As soon as I entered the store, I checked the price of clothes. Three thousand yen for knit ... .... Oh, this is within budget!

"Dude! It's pretty cheap!" I am impressed by seeing the price of clothes I liked. I was anticipating higher prices so I was excited to see fashionable clothes with cheap prices!

"Since we just came, it's better not buy any yet ... Why don't you decide after looking around?" I was holding 3 items in my hands when Suzuki stopped me.

"Oh, ah ... ... That's right ..." For the time being we decided to go to the second store. After passing through Takeshita Street, crossing the main street, turning and walking a bit, we arrived at a store called "BEAMS".

"I think the place is pretty good because it's a select shop!"

"Select Shop? What is that?"

A question mark appears on my head. Oh, I wonder if this question is for beginners in fashion.

"Ehh ... ... These shops deals in various brands, not just items from one brand, so you can see products of various brands in just one store."

"Well ...that's convenient."

Anyway, I took a stylish looking shirt and checked the price. 12 thousand yen.....! Although it is certainly wonderful, I think that I would go over my 30,000 yen budget today, so it may be expensive for a single item.... After looking around the shop, we next went to a store called "Ciaopanic" in the same street. Suzuki said that this was also a "select shop", and there were many very fashionable clothes inside. There were more affordable clothes than "BEAMS", but somewhat more expensive than "WEGO" which I saw the first time.

"Kashii, why not look at the shoes here? There are quite a few brands"

"Oh, ah ... ... Is that so ..... then ... ..."

While receiving advice from Suzuki, I chose a pair of white sneakers, after suffering for a while. The price is over ten thousand, but I like it the most and Suzuki also said the style is nice, so I decided a pair.

"Oh, they're also selling clutch bags. I can't buy it now, I'm out of money.... Kashii do you want to buy this?"

"Oh .....? A clutch bag .....?"

I see the "clutch bag" that Suzuki is showing. To be honest, it is the first time I heard of the word. There were no shoulder straps attached, it was a bag with a simple design.

"Huh ... ... now these are popular.....while they are certainly fashionable, but if I carry one around I'm sure to leave it somewhere for sure..."

I decided not to get a "clutch bag" for some fickle reasons and purchased only sneakers for the time being. We then returned to the store "WEGO" where we went first. While listening to Suzuki's advice, I bought a gray duffle coat (9,000 yen), and a black backpack with studs (8,000 yen).

I was surprised that it fell within my budget of 30,000 somehow. There were actually some items I also wanted, but I will endure it until the next payday. Anyway, I have plans to buy something big after this. That, of course, my Christmas present for her.

```
"Well, I was saved ......Thank you very much, Suzuki"
```

It was still early, so I decided to move to my house and play. By the way, it is the first time to bring Suzuki at home.

```
"I'm home"
```

"Okay... what?" When I went up to the entrance and opened the door to the living room ... there, my sister is playing a game on DS on the sofa. She was surprised to see Suzuki.... By the way my sister always wore a T-shirt over her other clothes since it got cold.

```
"Oh, this, my friend Suzuki"
```

It seems that Akari is greatly surprised by Suzuki's appearance. ..... he looked like a famous voice actor or something like that. Well, it figures since Suzuki is a handsome guy... Akari is rarely surprised by such things. Looks like Akari likes Suzuki's looks.....? With such a situation like this, I did not talk but grabbed a PS 3 in the living room.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Not at all ... What would you like to do this after this?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Oh yeah ... since I bothered you today, will you come with me today?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Well, seriously! I will go!"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Do not bother me"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Hello~"

<sup>&</sup>quot;This is my sister Akari."

<sup>&</sup>quot;He...he...Hello ...!!"

"It is unusual for Naoki to bring a male friend home!"

For some reason, Akari is preparing to start a game by herself. As I was happy, that she was doing so and was talking to him. Why did it feel different when I brought Koigasaki here to my place; I started to feel bad at first, but ... What is this difference!?

"Rather, have not you brought one since you entered high school?" While preparing, she unexpectedly looked back at me and laughed and grinned and said such a thing. Oh, Akari, stop it, you're making me smile...... Suzuki, is guessing that I do not have other male friends! ... But it's good to have a good buddy to bring home....

"Well, that's right! Well then, I am the first? I am happy ~"

"Huh!"

Suzuki's remarks surprised me and I blew out... but somehow it was right. While blushing, I'm seeing Suzuki's face in a shocking appearance.

"Oh, Suzuki ... Do not say that.... My sister is joking."

"Eh, what's wrong, Kashii?"

"..... Ha, ha.... Naoki have something in secret...."

"Akari, what are you saying?"

"No, whatever ..... Yes, I set the game."

The title screen of the game is displayed on the television.

".....!?"

What it shows was not a bassara, but a BL game like PS2's light, "Nagara" The title screen of the dog's "boner" was displayed.

"Akari! What are you doing!?"

"It is funny ~, I made a mistake ..."

"How can you make a mistake between PS2 and PS3! Did you do that on purpose?"

"But don't you want to try this game? It's super fun...."

"No we don't! Prepare Basara quickly!"

Akari begins preparing the PS3's Basara with a reluctant expression. I went to the kitchen in the meantime to prepare sweets and juice and returned to the living room ... ... Akari and Suzuki were talking.

"Are you on good terms with my brother?"

"Yeah, we are on good terms. It is my first time coming over Kashii's house, but he often plays in my house."

"... ....! At your home......! Ho ho ho, I see ... ...."

My younger sister who seemed excited after hearing Suzuki's remarks. ... ... Akari seem to be highly interested in Suzuki.... Damn, that fujioshi sister of mine. Eventually the game starts. Suzuki was staring at the back of Akari, stands up and goes to the toilet. A state of anxiety takes over me.

"Oh do you ... ... Well do you like Akari...?" Unexpectedly, I asked Suzuki aloud. I don't want to! I don't want to be an older brother in law! I do not trust Akari with such a lolicon!

".....Huh?"

"Yes! Certainly she is so cute and is so small just like elementary school students, but a loli ...there are many problems in the future.... the future must be stopped...!"

"... Haha Kashii likes his sister, doesn't he?"

"Ha! what, what ...!?"

Suddenly being told unexpected things, I am suddenly upset. I am afraid for Akari...? What, what.... Simply I worried just like a brother....

"Do not worry, I'm safe because I only like 2D girls!"

Oh, the voice actor can differentiate between 2D and 5D! Suzuki said so in a serious face as well. I feel confident that he is not interested in Akari. I see, he was not looking at Akari with such eyes.... It would have been my immediate death.... Ha, that was good.....

Oh, well, since he is seeing Koigasaki now, he doesn't have eyes on other

girls...?

"No ... ... something like Kashii's sister, she smells like my older sister...." Suzuki says with distant eyes.

```
"Huh.....?"
```

Speaking of Suzuki's older sister, a super-class groovy girl ... smells like my younger sister.... No way, she also had a strange fantasy between me and Suzuki..... Oh, I suppose that I do not like Suzuki like that, that is what I mean by that! By the way, she is someone who mercilessly plots 3D as a story of her BL delusion. My rotten sister without that bending! ...!

"Oh, but that's true, Azuki is also a girl, girl."

"Hey, that's right ... ..." And that reminds me, Azuki also had a strange delusion of me and Suzuki ... Well, I told her I can't....

```
"... ... is that ... ...?"
```

We noticed Akari was standing in front of the toilet. She seems to have heard our conversation, and she has a surprised expression.

```
"Naoki ... Who is she ... ...?"
```

Walking one step at a time to our place, Akari asks me with a rough expression.

```
"Oh no, that ... ...."
```

Speaking of which, I have not told her yet .... I was thinking what should I say....

```
"She.....is...!?"
```

"...What......does Akari know......!"

"Oh, err ... ... I brought her here before, Sakurai Azuki ... ...."

"... ...!! Why did Akari become silent!?"

Akari, while crying loudly, rushes up the stairs.

"Hey, hey ... ... Akari!?"

Ignoring my voice, Akari rushed into her room and made a loud noise and

banged her door. "Wh, what is with her ...?" "Kashii, don't you want to chase her?" "Why should I ... ... OK, just let us leave her alone for a while ..." What is it with Akari? Why did she suddenly act like that? We played with games for a while, and Suzuki went home as it got dark. "Will you make it up with your sister?" "Oh, ok...." Even though I agreed with Suzuki, but I said to myself ... I did not quarrel with her.... After delivering Suzuki to the way to the station and returning home, I went to Akari's room. "Oi Akari, how long will you stay angry?" "...." There is no reply. "Hey, Akari?" ...... Oh no, I quit! I haven't done anything wrong, so I am not at fault here. The next day at noon, there was a customer in the karaoke shop. "Good morning ... ...." ".....! Good morning"

Seeing the person who came, I made a stinky face. It was an idol Watanabe. Oh, why am I with this person again today ...? I checked the shift schedule. Today, there should be one more employee in the kitchen, but this guy will be up front.....!

"Mr. Takahashi, seems that he could not come today because of a cold ... Well the two of us can run this place, it seems the store manager did not put in a reliever"

"Well, that's right ..... relievers are hard to find relievers for Sundays..."

The only conversation I can make concerns only work, I can't talk about private matters with this person. For us workers, for today we will manage somehow, but it's hard under this rather awkward air and is more dangerous. Even though it is a funny thing, we still respect each other.

No guests are coming so I am free to watch idol Watanabe. Wow, she's fiddling with her phone while on duty ... .... Well, as usual she doesn't feel like talking to me... Well, that's good, but ... .... With this awkward air, some customers arrived..... A familiar face came in the store.

"Naoki, thanks for your hard work ~!"

"eh.....!?"

Azuki and Koigasaki came.

"Wow, I was surprised ... ... suddenly coming here ... ...."

"I thought, let's keep silent and surprise you... ... was it annoying?"

"No, no ... ... I'm happy but ..."

It was a nice surprise as I thought that I could not meet her during this holiday.

"Ah, let's go inside already...."

Koigasaki saw us and said that with an annoyed appearance. Of course, as I am familiar with her, I think it is not really bad.

"Momo-chan ..... I told Momo-chan 'I wanted to see Kashiwada today but I can't' so she suggested coming here... "."

"Thank you, Koigasaki ....."

What a friend, this person.... really cheering for us ... ....

"Huh Naoki, you have your hair cut!? It's really cool!"

"Oh, oh, ah ... ... thanks for noticing..."

It looks like Azuki is shy when she is being praised, but she is not shy in praising somebody else. Noticing us, idol Watanabe stared. Our cuddly

conversation is heard clearly and it is embarrassing ... .... Besides, it seems to look like being distracted at work....

"Oh, well ... ... is doing karaoke today OK?"

"Yeah, of course!"

"Well how many hours?" I showed the room and saw two people heading to the room.

When the two who left, I will be alone with Idol Watanabe. An awkward silence. I was watching this person just a while ago ...

"Well she was -"

".....eh!?"

I was surprised to be suddenly spoken to by Idol Watanabe and I gave a loud voice.

"She's the black-haired one, right?" Watanabe Aya's voice is usually high pitched when she is talking to a man.... she surprised me by using her normal voice in her question.

"Well, that's right... but why ...?!"

"I saw her several times walking at the next station"

"Well seriously ...!!! Ugh ......!?"

When I was with Azu-chan, she was watching her ...!

"I'm a bit upset too, my face is really red ... I can get serious ~!" Watanabe Aya brings up thelong sleeve her clothes that hides up to the fingers (so-called Moe sleeve guy) to her mouth and smiles coquettishly.

"No, no, don't be upset! I would be surprised if you suddenly talked to me for the first time...!"

I can't afford to pretend, I said the words in my heart.

"Well, even ... ... if Kashiwagi says something sullen, he still always has a savory aura. Because of this, I will not be hesitant to speak to him."

"Kashiwagi! Well, my name is not Kashiwagi, it's Kashiwada!"

"Oh, sorry." Please apologize. This person, after working together for months, did not remember my name! ..... I mean, I'm already nervous talking to Aya... Is she serious .....

That's why I was afraid to talk (mainly to girls) until now ... ...! Was that me making a wall... ...? Certainly, my inner feeling decided that I could not be able to get along with these guys ... but does it show in my face and attitude...?

"No, no.....girls, especially pretty girls, I am not used to talking to them.... only just recently I was getting used to that a bit .... I meant that I was putting out such an aura for that .... "

"Ehh, so now you can talk to pretty girls like me?"

"... ...!! Ha! Please do not say that!"

What is this woman!?

"It's just a reaction, you're too serious ~"

Watanabe Aya burst out laughing. ..... This is completely stupid .... Then the front telephone rings.

"Yes, this is the front desk."

"Oh, Naoki, I'd like to order drinks ...." Azuki ordered drinks for two people.

My chat with Aya Watanabe stops here, as I prepared drinks in the kitchen, bring it to the room where Azuki is.

"Thank you for waiting ~"

When I entered the room, they were talking while choosing songs.

11 .....11

Two people suddenly became silent after I the drinks on the table.

"Wh, what is it !?"

"I did not know that such a cute little girl was working here! ... Ayukan-chan."

".... wait a little bit, Momo!"

"eh.....!?" Azuki-chan, that is ...!

Suddenly Koigasaki rose from the sofa.

"I will be out for a bit; I want to wash my hands"

"Eh!? Momo-chan!"

Leaving us a bit in an awkward air, Koigasaki leaves the room quickly and went to the bathroom. Koigasaki..... Did she leave on purpose!?

"Azuki-chan ... Please don't be concerned about that ...?" Looking at the face of Azuki-chan, she turns red and looks at me awfully.

"Besides, I do not care about another ..."

That's right... ... Don't be jealous of me and idol Watanabe ...? Earlier I did not notice such a thing at all. She is jealous ...... I am quite happy!

"No .... Today is the first time for me to be alone with that girl, it was just today that there is no other employee! Besides, we don't get along at all, although we finally talked properly today! Anyway, you have no need to worry at all ... " In order to reassure Azuki-chan, I said everything that I can think of.

"No, Naoki ..... I am not worried at all! Maybe ... just a little ..." Azuki shyly smiled a little.

"But ... thank you ... for trying your best to reassure me ..."

"Oh, Azuki-chan ....." My cheeks were red and I thanked her for her words. Oh, how cute she is ....

Besides, I am now with a cute girl in a dark, closed room ... ... and my heart rate goes up. I'm so happy to be working here. While looking at Azuki while thinking such a foolish thing, she also gazes at my eyes.... Now if you stare at me like that ... ....

11 11

In silence, we stare at each other. I was having problems with keeping my wits. When you are alone in a closed room, you like it, as I remembered what happened in Azuki's house last time. One more step and kiss ... I guess I am able to do it now. Azuki was also closing her eyes, so it would be okay .... Oh, I want to kiss her ... .... Even now, I get a little closer ... .... A little closer.......

Then I heard the door of the room opening. Hurriedly turning around, I saw the surprised face of Koigasaki.

"Oh .....! Cha, Kashiwada and Azuki-chan, don't do weird things ..." Koigasaki told out terrible things with a pale face.

"Ohhhhhhh! I did not do anything!"

I was in a hurry to deny. No, I just thought that I wanted to kiss, I did not really plan on doing it! ... .... Maybe ... ....

"Oh, that's it, Momo!"

Even after we deny it, Koigasaki still seemed a little doubtful, but for the time being, she seems to be convinced. Fu ... I was saved.

"Yeah, I have to get back."

I realize that I have spent too much time in this room.

"Yeah, do your best at work!"

After nodding at Azuki 's words with a smile, I rushed out of the room and returned to work. ..... Ha, that was dangerous, my reasoning ... .... I can hardly do my job after this, thanks to Azu - chan ....

## Pic P81

When I returned to the front desk, Aya Watanabe, who seemed to be free because no other customers came, was fingering her the cell phone.

" .....

She found me unconsciously staring at her.

".....what?"

"No, no, I thought you had a heard something...."

"Even if I'm not busy ... more than that, how did you get along with such a cute girl?"

"Oh ... oh, that is from the other side ..."

"Really~!?" ...... After that, Aya asked me a lot of things about Azuki-chan ......
I have my hands full of Aya Watanabe. But, to be honest, I was happy to be able to speak to a cute girl at work other than Mr. Yamamoto. Azuki and Koigasaki

came to work, that triggered Watanabe Aya to call out to me... I should thank the two of them ...

"Thank you for coming to visit me earlier! I joked but I was happy. Next week, I'm looking forward to our date (\* ^ - ^ \*) "

I sent the email to Azuki - chan after going home.

"I'm home"

"Welcome back~"

As I came home, the Okaa-san sitting on the sofa was looking at me while grinning.

"What's with this...."

"You, you got her!"

"How, how did you know that ...?!?"

"I asked Akari, Mama is so happy ~"

Ah .... Akari you snitch!

"So ... What about Akari?"

"She ran to her room as she heard you came back. Did you quarrel again?"

She's still angry .... what a troublesome little sister ... .... I have no choice but to go up the stairs to Akari's room.

"Oi Akari, what's happening to you?"

..... There was no reply.

"Are you upset or angry about keeping her a secret from you?"

Recently, I do not understand and this time I guess I am a little mad .... It is frustrating because the older brother is acting stupid before his sister. Suddenly the door opens.

"Whaaa...!"

There, Akari stood staring at me with an amazed face.

"...... If you are angry about what I kept secret ... ... I think I'm bad for once ...

... Because she was also your acquaintance, I thought I could not say it ... but I was looking for the right time to say ... "

```
"No ... I am not angry"
```

Akari said with a tremendously sullen face. Your words and expressions are not meshing.

"Why are you in such a bad mood, are you avoiding me?"

"You're Lying! You are obviously in a bad mood!! ... Tell me exactly what you do not like."

Akari is doing sitting on the bed, sitting and tightly holding the stuffed animal tightly. While lying down, I bit my lip with a face I feel bad.

```
"Hey, hey ... ... Akari ...?"
```

When she raised her, she stared at me sharply ... and squeezed out a voice as if she decided to do something.

"... Ah ... I ... nothing, Naoki ... ... I can't accept her ... ... I hate it!" ............
Huh?

"Wha ... what are you talking about, are you ...?" Akari's sudden words made me think. I can't accept her...? Now why did she say that? There is nothing wrong with my hearing ...

"... but ... even ... because of her .... we can no longer play games together, right?

```
"Oh, Akari ..."
```

In other words, ... Akari ...... Does she feel lonely ... what she will be separated from me? Does this person want to play with me as usual ...? Did she get angry because of this?

I never thought that Akari would say such pretty things. This is the first time I heard Akari saythis ...? She is ... very cute, isn't she?

<sup>&</sup>quot;.....Huh!?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;I said I am not mad! I am not in a bad mood!"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Nothing, nothing will change ... even now"

```
".....Huh?"

"I will not change, I will still play games with you,"

".....! Na... Naoki ..."

Akari looked up at me with a look that looked a bit surprised.

"Really ... really?"
```

The expression of Akari lightens me up. If such a thing corrects the mood, it is cheap. I will play as many games as I can with her.

"Oh, that's right ... next time, I will bring Azuki-chan, so we can play games with three people!"

Pic P85

I brightly imagine Akari and Azuki-chan playing together in high spirits. However...... Akari's face fell after I suggested that we play with 3 people.

"... You're so dense it makes me wanna puke!"

"... whaa... why ..."

"Oh, of course,"

"Play games with three people!" Naoki Baka! "

Akari pushed me and kicked me out of her room, then closed the door with abang. What, what's with this person ...? It seemed as if she was in a good mood before then ... I can't understand the feelings of my younger sister in puberty after all ....

## **Chapter 4**

Considering my struggling finances, I decided that I will have a date with Azuki-chan to the beach park.

Actually, I wanted to take her to an amusement park, or even winter skiing, but I do not have much money now. After I bought a coat and bag for over 30,000, I also bought a Christmas present for Azuki, so I became poor at once. There was a lot of events listed on the date magazine, but all of it was on Christmas day, so I got a problem with the date.

When she heard the place I wanted to go, Azuki-chan sent her answer that she wanted to go to the sea, so I decided to go to the beach park in Chiba somewhere by looking up the nearby ocean that we can go. But it is the sea ......

I do not want to recall the time I went to the ocean in Odaiba with Hasegawa ....

"But why do you want to go to the sea in the middle of winter?" In the bus heading to the beach park I asked Azuki-chan.

"I thought you would have wanted to go to Ikebukuro's butler cafe or something like that...."

"Well ... I said it before, but more than the fact that Naoki will be with me...I want to go to a couple's date site! "What are you saying...?Whatever it is, the fee for admission the beach park is easy on my budget, so it is a very nice date spot for now.

By the way, Azuki today is wearing a beige coat with a fur on its white hood. It is totally cute as it looks like a bit like a rabbit somehow. ..... I think....

Today I'm wearing a muffler I got from Azuki - chan and a set of clothes I bought at Amazon. Soon the bus arrived at the beach park. After paying the entrance fee, we moved to the beach.

"Cold !!"

When we arrived at the beach, we shouted at the same time. I should have known ... ... The winter seaside is fucking cold. Even though the temperature is not that low, the wind is cold and you can catch a cold

"Azuki-chan ..... Ocean in this midwinter is too hard, isn't it !?"

Today I am wearing Heat Tech under the shirt, but still I can't bear this cold. Apparently only a few people came to this cold place, and I can't find anyone else around.

"Because, because ... ... I do not think that everything is that cold ...... I watched scenes in anime where couples go on a date at the sea, so I wanted to do the same, even this one time ...!"

Azuki seems to be feeling cold, and says this while warming her hands with her breath. This cold girl is kinda cute ..... But this not the time to think about it. She might freeze with the cold as it.

"But the winter sea is really beautiful ... ...."

As Azuki turns her eyes towards the sea and says it with a groan, I also looked and saw the ocean. It certainly was quiet, slightly fantastic and beautiful.

"Oh, that's right!"

I saw Azusa grab something inside her bag. She took out a tough looking camera from the inside. It is a single lens reflex digital camera that she often uses when cosplaying.

"Today I want to take pictures of the sea ... ... Uu, my hand is shivering ~!" Azuki who shoots some sea shots while braving the cold.

"Yes, Naoki, smile ~!"

"You can even take photos!?"

"Of course! It's my first holiday date celebration!" So this is a memorial, too

Azuki takes a picture of me alone, then turns the lens towards us and shoots a two-shot by taking a picture of herself.

"I really like the photo, do not you think?"

```
".....memories......"
  "Huh.....?"
 "I want to keep memories .... I want to keep it ... I do not want to forget all of
the time I spent with Naoki .... I do not want to forget it someday, if I take a
photo, I can always remember today." Somehow laughingly, she says.
  "Oh. Azuki-chan ..."
  "... Nothing, was that ... something like a fragile character?"
  "Oh, a fragile character ... Does she hide her sickness?"
  "Hahaha, I have a healthy body!"
 She laughed innocently like a child.
 "... ____ 0 ____ 0
  I noticed her white neck peeking through the coat's fur is getting colder.
  "Oh ... you noticed?"
 She looks happy, looking at my face.
 "Oh, that, ... ... that time ... ... today, today ... ...."
 Somehow shaking from shyness, she moves closer to me. I thought, ... she
grabbed the end of my muffler and started to unscrew from my neck. Hmm?
Are you going to take my muffler? I thought that ... ... Aftershe removed it
halfway, she wraps the muffler ... to her neck.
 "What?! Eh. ..... !?"
  "Well, I definitely want to try this ..."
 She is red with embarrassment from laughing. We are sitting together with
one muffler tied to our necks. ..... What are you doing? Oh my girlfriend!?
 You are too cute! Her body sticks to my side; we share our body warmth. My
heart rate jumps abruptly.
 "....." Since I saw looking at me with half her eyelids closed.... I acted
suddenly.
```

"Ha ha!" I grasped her hand. A big exaggeration, her body reacts. Her hand

was so cold, I was surprised.
"The moon shines bright tonight"
Said Azuki who seems to have been terribly shaken by my actions, although she did not move from me. My cheeks colored red and I see her face with a surprised expression. I just put that cold hand into my coat's pocket.
"Hang in there! Hawahwahawah !?"
"No, something strange voice has come out"
"Oh, no, no suddenly this!"
"Ah Azuki-chan" I stare straight at Azuki-chan. Azuki is too shy to look at my eyes.
"Azuki-chan here, here, turn around"
"!"
At my words, she finally looks up at me. The eyes that look at me with eyes were moist enough to seem to cry and the hands in my pocket are trembling.
"The moon shining brightly"
For a while, we stare at each other silently. Azuki finally settled her determination to the serious me, finally closing her eyes slowly. To that shivering little lip I I softly kissed her.
II II
" Huh!?"
The moment I take my lips off, I felt her embrace all the time without looking at my face. "Oh, Azuki-chan!?"
She says nothing.
"are you crying?"
"! No, not crying!!" Her voice was completely hazy. I understand that my hugging her lead her to tears.
" Naoki" She keeps saying my name while hugging me.
" I like I love you Always and forever no matter what

happens in the future ..... I love you, Naoki!

"Azuki-chan ... ... I love you ..."

I hugged her crying in my chest.

I felt ... not exaggerating, I felt that this is the happiest moment in my life. Thanks to her, I was able to know for the first time what kind of happiness to be able to say that I love you to the person I love ....

In the past few weeks, she quickly became an irreplaceable person to in me. I do not want to leave her. Always ... I want to be by Azuki-chan. I thought so from my heart.

"For our next date ... what are the weekends and days available next week?" On the way back, I asked Azuki who is sitting next to me.

"Well, next week's Saturday ... .... Oh, that's right! Naoki, do you know about Momo-chan and her novel going to be discussed by a committee this month?"

"Committee? No, I have not heard of that ... ...." Committee ... ... is certainly for the creative doujinshi sale.

"It seems that Nikaido will join the circle this month, and said that we are going to go with Momo-chan and Murasaki ...."

"Oh ... that, is it an event that for the original joint magazine published by Nikaido, that includes the novel by Koigasaki?" It surely was a conglomerate or a committee.

"Oh, that's it indeed ... this time Momo-chan said she wanted to go to know the atmosphere of what the committee is like. It's Saturday .... Can you go straight ahead, too?"

"Next Saturday? Wait a moment"

I tried to open my mobile to check the schedule.

"Ah!"

Suddenly, Azuki shouted.

"What !?"

```
"That....."
```

Azuki-chan was looking at... the standby screen of my cell phone. Oh my goodness! My current standby photo is the framed picture we took last time.

```
"No, this is that ...!!"
```

I am embarrassed and tried to say something but no words come up. Azuki seemed surprised and took out her smartphone from her pocket.

```
"Hey ... me too!"
```

"Huh....."

Azuki-chan's smartphone display ..... Is the same one as mine.

"I never thought that Naoki would use our photo as the stand by ... ... I'm sooo happy!"

```
"Well! ... No, that is my line ..."
```

Azuki-chan liked this framed photo....

Oh ...... I am now ... ... probably the happiest person in the world. Azuki and my bond is real. I love Azuki-chan.

We have not been together for a month, but I never thought that I liked it so much. Today I was able to reconfirm my feelings once again.

```
" "
```

While watching the framed photo of the standby screen, I indulge in a single-minded thought for a while.

```
"... Naoki, what are you thinking?"
```

".....Ah, nothing..." ..... I have something to do.I secretly made up my determination within my heart.

The next day.

Before morning home room begins ... I stood up and moved to the front seat. The front row, the seat right in front of the table. It is the same as usual, behind it. I decided my resolution and called out.

```
"Hasegawa .....!"
```

Today she is reading at her seat as usual... Midori Hasegawa was terribly surprised she heard her name called.

"Kashiwada ... ... you? ...?"

I heard her voice after a long time.

"Oh... I have something I want to talk to you about for a bit ... ... Is it okay now?" Before, I was nervous whenever I spoke to her ... but today it was over. My voice is trembling.

"Oh, ok ...." She looks confused and but she accepts. I moved to the corridor with Hasegawa.

"Oh, that ... ... until now ... Sorry!" Grasp my fist strongly, I apologized.

"Huh.....?"

Hasegawa looked at me with her eyes wide open.

"Selfishly, saying strange things ... Moreover, avoiding you, ... ... Maybe it was a misunderstanding, but Hasegawa ... ... I even pretended not to notice you on purpose, run away, ... ...."

"Kashiwada ..."

Hasegawa was stunned and is silently looking at me. Slowly she opens her lips.

".....happy....."

".....eh!?"

I was surprised by the words of Hasegawa and look at her. She was laughing a little.

"... I did not expect you to talk like this ... ... I have thought that we can't speak anymore ... like this ...."

She speaks slowly and carefully while biting her lips. She is happy to talk with me ...? I can't hide my surprise at her words.

"Kashiwada, as you said ... ... I tried to speak to Kashiwada a few times .... However, I did not have that courage ..." Hasegawa keeps on a sad expression. "In the past few weeks when I could not talk with Kashiwada ... It seemed as if there was a hole in my heart ...... Kashiwada-kun is important to me ... I realized again how he is irreplaceable ... ... "

```
"Hase ... ... gawa...?"
```

I am struck by her speech. Up until now ...... Hasegawa thinks she did not deserve all my actions, she is probably disappointed with me... I thought. Even I would think that I would be disappointed. But ... such a thing, Hasegawa did not expect too much.

Hasegawa did not change from the words that she told me before ... ... She said that I was "an irreplaceable important person". At the same time as my emotions of happiness overflows steadily ...... I am suffering from a terrible guilty feeling. I ... without knowing... hurt the feelings of Hasegawa. for my own selfish reasons. By avoiding her ... ... I hurt Hasegawa.

```
"I'm sorry, really ... ... I just thinking of myself ... ...."
```

"It is strange for you to apologize Kashiwada.... I was avoided by Kashiwada and I took it for granted ... Kashiwada-kun ... ... I got hurt. To my tender friend Kashiwada ... ... I have done terrible things."

```
"Hasegawa ... ...."
```

To the words of Hasegawa, I blushed. At the same time, guilty feelings that I do not understand somewhat, sprouted inside me.

```
"No, really, I'm sorry for that!"
```

To me, Hasegawa is important.

"Suddenly, saying funny things ... ... without considering the feelings of Hasegawa, without any reason, I ran away ...."

```
"Kashiwada-kun ......"
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<sup>&</sup>quot;I do not care about myself ....."

<sup>&</sup>quot;....?" Hasegawa is blushing furiously the point.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Although I liked you ... I, I ... ... without noticing that ..."

<sup>&</sup>quot;.....Huh?"

"It's like that I did something to Hasegawa arbitrarily I'm sorry I am ot balanced at all "
"Kashiwada-kun Such a thing, I"
"But it's okay now!"
"Huh?"
"I already will not say such strange things again"
II II

To my words, Hasegawa is looking at my face with a surprised expression.

"I will never do those things again ... So be safe in knowing that! That's why ... well, I guess I can be a friend ... Will you be my friend?"

Hasegawa kept her eyes open for a while and kept silent while looking at my face. I become uneasy as to whether she will refuse the offer of becoming friends ...

".... Yeah ...If Kashiwada wants to be friends just like before ... ... I'm very happy ..." Eventually Hasegawa laughed thinly as she seemed a little puzzled.

"Well, thank you .....! Good! ...!"

n

The words of Hasegawa relieved me from the bottom of my heart. This is good...... With this I can be friends with Hasegawa as before. No, it is different from before... a bit different. Now I am not after Hasegawa ... because I like Azuki-chan.

I am glad that Hasegawa did not hate me. I'm really happy to know that Hasegawa wanted to talk to me again. There were various things, but finally, in real sense, I was able to become friends with Hasegawa again....

## **Chapter 5**

A week passed since then. I still went with Azuki everyday, we sometimes stayed at school, or dropped by a bookstore or a game shop, and had a good time. Also, I read the novels for doujinshi of Koigasaki on the rooftop at school, and we three talked about the content; and I gave advice to Koigasaki from time to time.

Since I was going out with Azuki-chan, I found that I was spending less time with other people besides Azuki-chan, so I was pleased to be able to spend more time for the three of us as usual. Of course, it is fun to be alone with Azuki-chan, but I was a little anxious that I might be estranged from Koigasaki.

The novel by Koigasaki was approaching completion.

"The prince of a foreign country will meet the elementary school girl who was will be her boyfriend by Christmas" Finally, "A foreign prince comes to the girls' high school, meets a student who became his girlfriend at Christmas; the heroine eventually refuses the prince's proposal, and chooses a handsome classmate who always support her", what happens to the prince ...? I read the strange story line but I wanted the prince to win, and I advised Koigasaki that it would a better ending but Koigasaki insisted on her own ending, so I respected the intention of the author.

To Hasegawa who had been in an awkward state until that time, I gave a greeting normally. On that day, Hasegawa was about to go home for the holidays and was carrying the notes of the homework for all classes to somewhere.

"Oh, I will take half!"

I did not think of anything, unlike the time before I confessed. I do not deserve Hasegawa to like me. I felt it was so difficult, I thought that I wanted to be her power.

"Oh, Kashiwada-kun ... ... Thank you" Hasegawa smiled at my words.

<sup>&</sup>quot;How far are you going, please?"

"To the staff room"

Me and Hasegawa walk side by side in the corridor while carrying the notes.

"How is Yamamoto now?"

I asked Hasegawa because I was curious and I have no news about him. Once I heard from Yamamoto that says he is keeping in touch with you by e-mail, but I wonder if it is still going on afterwards, and more than anything, I want to know the state of things from Hasegawa herself.

"Yeah ... I often mail and phone, and during this time ... we went, the three of us including my mother, for a meal." "Oh, that's right! How was it?"

"Well ... ... It is still a little awkward to talk with my older brother ... I can't speak normally now, but ... I hope I can talk more naturally little by little ... Someday, I hope we can return to our relationship back to when we were children...."

"Yeah ... you can hope for it! Because Yamamoto is very nice and easy to talk to!!I'm sorry....Hasegawa should be more familiar about it than me ..."

I just wanted to encourage Hasegawa, but I noticed that I made a bad statement later, and I got embarrassed and made a bitter smile. However, Hasegawa smiled at my words.

"Actually, I always wanted to hear more about how Kashiwada-kun and one-san brother at work."

".....Huh....."

"I wanted to talk forever" ... That's right ... But I continued to avoid her, so she could not talk like that ...

"Well, uh ... Yamamoto is the first to talk to me at my part-time job ... ... he talked to me while I am known to the others, he helped me if there is something troubling me at work, is a very good senior, and he is also loved by everyone at work... Oh, there are girls who are saying that Yamamoto is cool! "

"Well, is that so ...?"

"Yeah! So, when I heard that Mr. Yamamoto was an otaku and moreover a netoge, I was very surprised. It was a very different image of him at work."

"...."

Hasegawa was stunned when she heard my words. ..... Yamamoto says he is a waste of a netoge or ... did I choose the wrong words! For Hasegawa, itmay be a delicate problem! Oh, I do not know why, but when I am around Hasegawa, I always fly around and fail. I just wanted to tell you that Yamamoto was a very good image person at work.

```
".....SO"
```

However, Hasegawa listened to my story and gave a very happy smile. "......

My older brother has not changed from the past ... ... Thank you, I'm very happy to hear that story."

Was it not because you saw that I felt uncomfortable with direct expression ...? When I heard from Hasegawa that her brother did not change since a long time ago ...... Yamamoto had long been a good looker and kind hearted older brother. Looking at Hasegawa 's happy appearance, I also became happy now.

"Yes, Kashiwada-kun ... ... If you do not mind ...... Next time, my brother and I, us three ... would you please meet up? I think my brother will be pleased ..."

"eh....."

I was surprised by the words of Hasegawa. Hasegawa inviting me like this ...

"in addition....."

Hasegawa is somewhat confused as she is a little puzzled.

"Well, that ... ... Kashiwada when you come, you can rest assured ..."

"eh!?"

I can't hide my surprise from the additional the words of Hasegawa. I can feel assured...? Hasegawa's word was a very happy word for me.

"... I'm sorry ... It is bad for me to ask such a thing with my personal hope .... It is selfish ... ...."

Hasegawa looked like he was panicking and told me to blame myself.

"No, no, that's not true at all! Of course I would definitely go if I can go! I

would like to talk more with Yamamoto"

I told Hasegawa about my honest feeling now. More than anything, I am glad that Hasegawa relied on me.

```
"Kashiwada-kun ...... Thank you"
```

Hasegawa gave a relieved expression when she heard my words and thanked me. As I reached the staff room while talking, I put the notes on the desk of the teacher in the staff room and left the staff room. I will accept Hasegawa invitation to meet with her and Yamamoto with three people, by e - mail, and I went back to my classroom while talking about that. I entered the classroom, and at that time ....

"Ah, Kashiwada-kun"

In the back of the classroom, there are about 4 girls talking; suddenly one gorgeous girl called me.

```
"You got her, huh?"

"Uh, hurry tell us, are you serious!?"

"A girl in class D group ... Sakurai?"
```

".....huh?"

Such a thing was told by the gal army staff in a stretch, and I can't say anything. It is amazing to be told so by the gal army corps ... ... The primary reason why I am about to die now is the presence of Hasegawa near the door. I did not say a thing about this to Hasegawa ....

It seems they have heard about it, but has the rumors reached Hasegawa, too?

Since I confessed to Hasegawa a little more than a month ago, it is very awkward for me. I appear to be too flirty to change from one to another girl in just one month.

While thinking such a thing, I looked at Hasegawa ... ....
"......"

Hasegawa had her eyes wide open and was looking at my face.

```
"...Are you OK ...?"

I ask her a question in a small voice. She seems to be a bit upset. "Huh?"

"That ... ... ... her ... ... ..."

"Huh ... oh ... yes, yes ..."

It seems that Hasegawa was surprised, so it seems this is the first time she heard about this. But even so ... ... it was a reaction beyond what I imagined it was so surprising.

"......."

Hasegawa is silent as she looks down.

"... Hasegawa ...?"

".......Ah ..... Sorry ..... Anyway ... .... Congratulations, Kashiwada Kun ... ..."
```

That smile ..... Why does it look somewhat sad...

"... Ah ...... Thank you ......"

She hurriedly raised her face and gave me a smile.

Eventually, the day before Saturday, where Nikaido is part of the circle of the creative doujinshi magazine spot sale "committee". After going home from school, I was playing the eroge that I got from Suzuki the other day in my room when my cell phone rang. It was an incoming call from Azuki.

```
"Hello ... ...." "Naoki what were you doing right now? "
```

I do not think there is any particular meaning in Azuki 's dialogue, but I considered it. I wanted to conceal the fact that I was playing an eroge to Azuki. I understand that she may not get angry with this kind of thing, but I still feel guilty somewhat. But because I do not want to waste Suzuki's favor, I have to play the eroge he loaned me....

<sup>&</sup>quot;Well ... er ... I'm playing a game in my room?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Naoki, why do you sound harried?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Well, it's because you called! So is there something I can do for you? Ah, no,

of course, even if you do not call, it's still OK, but ..."

"Oh, uh ..... It's not a big deal ... ... tomorrow at the committee; we will meet Murasaki and Nikaido-san for the first time after a while."

```
"Oh, yeah ... ...."
```

"So ... we are going out with them ... what do you say?"

I see, I have not told Azuki about Murasaki yet ... I have not met her since my birthday party, so it's natural that I have not contacted her. No, Murasaki is not a bit sorry for bullying me ... What was she thinking!? I am an idiot! I have Azuki-chan, so it's OK if I break it flags with other girls! Even if the flags are folded ...... Uuu....It would not have been such a thing from the beginning, but ... I guess I was just being teased.

"Naoki, you fell silent, what's wrong?"

"No, no matter what, Aki-chan please don't tell anyone about anything..."

"That's okay. I will do it if Naoki beg me to keep the secret of what happened between him and Murasaki! "

"Oh ..... that, that, please don't say such a thing!"

I am sweating from my forehead. Oh, I am in danger ~!

"Well OK ... Well then since it's embarrassing to say .... For tomorrow, I will not say anything.... "

"Oh, yeah! Thank you!"

"..... Naoki, are you happy now?"

"Well, that's not it! Azuki-chan, you thought too much!"

After desperately deceiving a suspicious Azuki-chan, I ended the call.

The next day

We were meeting at the main gate of the main exhibition hall in the same place where we went to summer comiket a few months ago.

"Oh, Naoki!"

<sup>&</sup>quot;eh....."

"Kashiwada, Ososo"

I arrived three minutes late, Azuki-chan, Koigasaki and Murasaki-san are already here.

"Kashiwada, it's been a long time **√**"

"Ahm, Murasaki-san ... I'm sorry, I kept you waiting ...!"

I have met Murasaki for the first time in about a month and she makes me nervous. It was about the various things that happened during my birthday party; she was quite bold and told me .... Well, I guess she was just drunk at that time ....

".....!?"

Azuki noticed me staring at Murasaki. I wonder if she noticed that I am upset ...? She is sure sharp ....

"Come to think of it, is the manuscript for Momo's joint doujins doing well?" Murasaki asked while we were heading to the Tokyo Big Sight.

"Oh, it's going well! It's finally finished and I sent the data with the manuscript to Nikaido!"

"I'm relieved I'm relieved I am sorry for making it like a cup of coffee this time somehow ... I remember I asked Kashiwada for something that time but I am not sure what it was ..."

"Oh ... you were drunk; I guess ..."

"Well ... that ... ... I'm not that drunk, my memory is clear until halfway ... ...."

Murasaki appears to be slightly impatient with my words.

"Really .....? ... Also, our conversation ... Do you remember ...?"

I recall what we had done at the party, hiding my being upset and asking.

"...! Eh, yeah ... ... of course ...!!"

Murasaki gets red slightly because of my words. It seems that ..... you remember properly, maybe ...... I mean, if I was drunk and did such things myself, I will also be embarrassed ...

```
"And, anyway! Have you read my present properly?"
"... ...!"
```

Murasaki meant her birthday gift to me ... I instantly remember the 16th banner erotic doujinshi where characters similar characters to Azuki-Chan, Koigasaki and Murasaki appears.

I properly read that doujinshi at home. The situations appearing in the book are impossible to happen in real life to us. There were erotic situations for each of us, so I had complicated feelings as I was reading my present.

## **PIC P106**

"Well, of course ... I read it properly ... because you made it for me ... ...."

"Oh, was it good ♪ Have you properly used it?"

"Whoa!?" I spit myself in spite of her remarks.

"Wha ... what are you talking about ...?!"

"Yes, in the book, I pulled out ..."

"Please do not continue! I know! You know what you meant without saying that!"

I shouted out loudly to shield her speech, and Azuki and Koigasaki who are walking in the front, looks at me in a strange way.

"Kashiwada, why are you making a fuss?"

"Nothing ...."

"Please do not get excited looking at the streetlight"

"Excited! Who ... "

I tried to argue but then I noticed Azuki-chan ... she was looking at my face with grave expressions.

"Oh, Azuki-chan ... what happened ... ...?"

"Oh, Momo-chan, is going to be famous soon!"

Azuki diverted her eyes from me soon and ignored me. Uu ... ... I have not done anything bad, really .... Eventually we will arrive at Tokyo Big Sight. We

purchased the guide book "Tia's magazine" and entered the venue. Not as much as summer comiket, but the venue was filled with people.

"Well, Anna's place ... Ah, there it is! Let's head to it right away" J

As soon as we got in, we decided to head to Nikaido's circle space. As we approached the circle space while looking at the map of the guide book, a beautiful woman with conspicuous blond hair... Nikaido ... was seated in the circle space. By the way, there were no other people around.

"Anna, thank you for your hard work!"

"Hello"

"Thanks for your good work!"

"Murasaki! You, too ... I am surprised, you did not say that you are coming today."

Nikaido is surprised to see us. I thought in advance that I would come today clearly, but I did not say it ... ....

"Hehuu, I just wanted to surprise Anna-senpai suddenly ..."

"I am completely surprised... you did not ... that you were coming ... Oh, now that there are no people here now... ... as it is ...! There were a lot of people here until a while ago, but the new books are already sold out...!

Nikaido is explaining things desperately. It may be true; I do not think it is strange.

"Today Momo wanted to know the atmosphere of the committee, so she also came.

I'm here to pay a visit. "

"Oh, yes ... So I will explain briefly ... In our circle, each time I join I publish a personal journal and a joint magazine with a theme. This is the newly published magazine for this time. I made a sample for Momosaka Juliet. "

Nikaido delivered a joint magazine to Koigasaki. Anyway, Nikaido, why are you still calling Koigasaki with her pen name? It is hard for me to stop laughing.

"Oh, thank you! Wow, wow ...!!"

Koigasaki is impressed while opening the magazine.

"Oh, yes ... ... I got late as I was preparing that for today, but the manuscript you sent me, I finally read it yesterday." In the words of Nikaido, Koigasaki is getting excited.

"It was wonderful! It was a funny setting with fantasy elements in line with the theme and it was nice that there was unexpected ending. Thank you. Thank you.

```
".....! Oh, thank you.....!"
```

Saying thank you to Nikaido's praise meant that she was deeply impressed with Koigasaki.

"Er, Kashiwada-kun ... .... Thank you too, you supervised the novel, did you not?"

Nikaido thanked me with a smile. Looking at the beautiful woman smiling while looking at you, I was off balanced for a moment. It is the first time that I was given a smile from Nikaido ....

```
"No, no ... ... I didn't do much ..."
```

"Oh, just right now so I'm planning to publish it in the next joint magazine in February next year, but in reality ... well, I got it for this winter comiket, so it's a big deal and it seems to have made it in time. I will decide when to issue it later. Of course, even at the committee I plan to sell it as usual. "

```
"Well, that's right ..... This winter comiket ...."
```

Hearing the words of Nikaido, Koigasaki is thinking about something silently for a while.

```
"Momo-chan ... certainly ..."
```

Azuma - chan tried to speak to Koigasaki.

"Oh, that ... ... If you do not mind ... ... Winter comiket ...... Oh, do you want me to go out too? As a seller ... ...." Koigasaki seemed serious and told Nikaido that such a thing. I am surprised at her offer.

```
"Huh.....?"
```

Nikaido also looks at Koigasaki's face with a little surprise.

"When I first joined the circle, it was a lot of fun ... ... I thought I would like to try again ... is it OK ...?"

"..... Well, I will welcome you. Well then, do your best, Momosaka Juliet."

```
"...!!, Yes ...!!"
```

Koigasaki and Nikaido laughed with each other.

Even so, I was surprised .... That Koigasaki wants to be a seller in the winter comiket herself .... She certainly said that it was fun when she joined the circle ... .... This is the first time for a coterie event ... ... When I took her to the love minus only event, it was terrible for her and was hard. Now she is offering herself to be a seller at a doujin event .... She has really changed. I wonder if I now say that she is a fine Otaku.

"Well then, I will definitely go and have fun with Naoki and Murasaki!"

```
"Oh, ah ... ...!"
```

Together with words, Koigasaki nodded with a smile.

We went around the hall where there are many books you can purchase. By the way, I was not able to buy anything, because I am maxed out now. On the way home, we took dinner at Family eatery Saizeria, near Big Sight, then we decided to call it a day. Murasaki will return on the Rinkai Line, and us three will ride the Yurikamome line.

"Both of you decided where to go for Christmas?"

Koigasaki leans against the wall of the train with her arms folded, asking us.

"Oh, yeah ... ... Naoki looked up in various magazines and so on ... I was going to see the lights in Omotesando  $\sim$ "

Azuki says a bit embarrassedly, and Koigasaki looked at my face and laughed.

"Hmm, it's a good choice Kashiwada, is not it?"

<sup>&</sup>quot;Come and see me **√**"

<sup>&</sup>quot;For me it's superfluous ... ...."

While arguing, I am relieved by the words of Koigasaki. It seemed that Koigasaki also accepted the date course I chose, it was good.

"Is Momo-chan is going with Suzuki this Christmas?"

Azuki inquired to Koigasaki curiously. .... That was what I worried about. However, I never had the courage to ask about Suzuki and Koigasaki, and I dared to think that I would not know anything about this ....

"What?

Koigasaki drew a question of Azu - chan.

"What?! That's it! We are asking, so please tell us, Momo-chan!"

Azuki desperately questioned Koigasaki, but Koigasaki is laughing and shedding.

Even so, Koigasaki never told us of her Christmas plans.

"... What, Naoki is not changing over to the Edo line!"

When we got off the train, Azuki asked me.

"Oh, ah ...... Today ... ... that, I'm thinking of going with Azuki-chan ..."

I had a consciousness that I made it somewhat muffled, so today I decided to escort her home for the time being. "... ...!"

At my words, Azuki and Koigasaki were surprised and looked at me the same time.

"Na... Naoki ... Thank you"

"... surprisingly, you have a good boyfriend?"

Azuki thanked her with embarrassment and laughed at Koigasaki. As soon as we arrived at the station where Azukiwill get off, we left Koigasaki and then went together.

"But Naoki, why bother ...?"

When we left the station and walked out to Azuki 's house, Azuki asked me curiously.

"Oh no ... because I saw Azuki-chan being bothered by something ..."

"Oh ...... Oh, that ... ... so you noticed ... ...?"

Azuki-chan looks at me with an apologetic face.

"Anyway, I was not angry ... ...."

"Well, is that so?"

On the way to comiket, she did not miss my talking to Murasaki.

"Yeah ... well ... I was certainly happy that you are talking to Murasaki, but I felt myself tensioning up, but ...."

"That's not it!"

Despite denying it, I am terribly shocked.

"Well, well ... it's okay ... that's ... ... Because I know that Naoki treats her like an older sister .... Even if I think about it, I am older than you... I just thought I was a little sorry .... "

"..... Oh, Azuki-chan ....."

At that time, were you thinking about such a thing ...?

"Um ... Azuki-chan ... I also said that before"

I stare at Azuki's eyes seriously.

"even if you are older than I, Azuki is the best."

As soon as she heard my words, Azuki's cheeks are dyed red in an instant.

"Na ... Naoki ... ..."

With eyes shining and looking at my eyes, she was embarrassed and looked downwards.

"Naoki ... always gives the words I want to hear the most ..."

She looks up again with a smile that looks to be very happy.

I was driven by the urge to embrace, but here it is on a street with many traffic, so I desperately endured.

"Even so, Momo-chan was surprised."

"Oh ... Because the books that published her manuscripts were sold out, it

might be interesting to sell,"

"Oh I will also go and buy a copy!"

"Oh, by the way, you're going to cosplay in winter comiket as Mamiko of Masumi Maki '

"Oh yeah! Naoki, you remembered it!"

"Of course. I do remember it."

"Yeah! Winter comiket, I'm looking forward to various things!"

While walking side by side while talking about such, suddenly, as if Azuki remembered something, Oh! she murmured. "That's right ... There was something I wanted to ask you, Naoki ... Do you know how Momo-chan and Suzuki are doing these days?"

".....eh!?"

Azuki-chan's mouth came out with their names, I was surprised. Koigasaki and Suzuki ...? Of course, I haven't heard about the two recently. Or, it is not an exaggeration to say that I am shielding that information from myself.

"No, I do not know ... but why?"

"Okay, I do not even know anything, Naoki .... I heard Momo always works hard, Momo always helps me when I consult her and cheered me on. I also want to become Momo 's power, but ... Momo, why did she talk about my romance recently .... "

Azuki says with a frown.

Is that so...... Well, Azuki does not know what they are like just like me. Koigasaki, why are you not talking about yourself to Azuki who is worried about you.

"Oh, but I guess she's probably doing well ... Last month ... the two of them went to Harajuku for shopping ... .... "

"Well, is that so!?

"Well .... I heard that from Suzuki ...."

After the date ... I wonder what happened.

"I did not know that .... Momo-chan, she didn't tell me, but ... well, if that was true, it was good"

Azuki laughs as if she was relieved.

"... Naoki, what's wrong?"

"No, no, no ... nothing,"

Why didn't she say anything to Azuki-chan, maybe, Koigasaki and Suzuki are not doing well ...? ...... She... what was she thinking? She helped me when I was in a lot of trouble, she should think that I wish her well. I'm sorry you cannot help me with my classmate but I am happy with Azuki-chan now. ...... That alone is enough.

"... Are you sure ...?"

Azuki who strangely looked at my face showed that is filled with worry.

## **Chapter 6**

That day was Monday as usual. I went to school, took lessons, had a lunch break, and I was planning to go to Azuki-chan's class to have lunch with Azuki-chan. The door in front of our class opened and Azuki appeared.

At that point, I thought it was a little strange. Usually, she would be waiting for me to come out in the hallway, even if she can open the door of the classroom. Furthermore, when I saw her appearance, I missed the timing to call her out. After opening the door swiftly, with a serious expression, she came into the classroom without hesitation, I was thinking that she will come to my seat as it is ... ... but she instead went to the seat of Koigasaki who was at the front. I can't catch the contents of the conversation of our distance, but both seem to be talking about something seriously. What on earth are you whispering about?

I wondered as I headed for the two.

"Oh, Naoki .... Today ... Momo-chan has important story, so we can't eat lunch together."

"Well, that's all right, but ... ...."

What important story? I wanted to ask, but Azuki's seriously ... ...

I was perplexed by the appearance of clumsiness; I could not say anything.

"Well, Momo-chan, let's go"

"Oh, ok ....."

Koigasaki seemed to be embarrassed, and followed Azuki - chan, and the two went out of the classroom. I saw Azuki's situation like that for the first time .... What the heck was that? I'm so worried that I'd like to ask her when she returns. When lunch break came to an end, Koigasaki returned to the classroom.

Her look was ...... It looked like a face that was thinking something. While I was watching Koigasaki ... unexpectedly, Koigasaki also saw me. Even if the distance is far, one can see clearly that our eyes met.

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It's only a few seconds ... ... Koigasaki was staring at my eyes. It looked like a very sad face. She seemed like she has something to say, then Koigasaki immediately turned her eyes away, and then I did not see them anymore. ...... What on earth was that? After school that day, I go as usual to Azuki-chan's class to pick her up and walk along the way to the station.

"Well ... It seems you talked to Koigasaki at lunch today. What were you talking about?" As naturally as possible, I asked.

"....!" The shoulders of Azuki-chan sways for a moment.

"Oh, yeah ... it's ... It's not a big deal" Azuki replied with a slight impatience.
"Oh is that so?"

"Yup....."

............ No, it is obviously suspicious! Azuki-chan ... are you trying to conceal something to me? "... Or is it something ... hard to say?"

"<u>!</u>"

Azuki-chan was a little surprised by my words, and in a hurry I deflected eagerly.

"Don't worry ... I would not force you if I do not want to say ..."

I force myself to say it so it will not be disliked, but .... I was curious and worried but I have no choice. It is a little shocking that Azuki wants to keep a secret from me. It seems that she was talking with Koigasaki with a very serious look, but ... what on earth were they talking about? When hidden in such a way, I become extra anxious.

Then, as usual we were talking about anime and cosplay related stories and Christmas things, while not touching the matter. From that day .... Azuki's situation became strange.

Even when we talk, it's all about unimportant things. If I invite her to walk home from school, she refuses.

"Azuki-chan ... many things have been happening recently, but what happened to you?"

I got worried and asked Azuki-chan while I was eating lunch.

"No, I think there are things that you are worried about .... If something happens, I want you to tell me ..."

"There is nothing! Ah ...... Because I am hooked on this season's anime, I'm lonely because they are about to end soon ... I guess I am thinking about that ...!"

Azuki made a smile and said such a thing, but I knew that it was a lie.

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"Oh ... Naoki ..."
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Unexpectedly, Azuki-chan takes a serious look and speaks to me.

"Do you listen to the radio ...?"

"Ha ... ra... radio ...?"

A question comes out from nowhere. Radio? Now why now? It's a topic that is too abrupt.

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"No, but I will not ask for it, but why?"
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"... Ah, that's ... I see ... okay, I do not mind ..."

Azuki said so, making a smile again and trying to end that topic.

"What's wrong with the radio?"

"Oh, no ..... Well ... I have heard quite a bit, so I thought that Naoki is listening ... I just asked .... There is no deep meaning, so do not mind."

The radio ... what the heck was that? Did it really have no meaning to our current story? Azuki-chan ... ... what are you worrying about? Why will not you tell me anything? What can be thought is that day ... ... on lunch break, disappearing with Koigasaki from the classroom, talking about something ... then I feel like I got strange things. What did they talk about then? Azuki said that there is nothing important in their talk.

What on earth did you talk about? I know that they are on good terms with each other, did they have a quarrel? I was very worried.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Whaa! Nothing, nothing!"

Three days passed with such conditions, and after school closed, I went into a winter vacation. Finally, Christmas Eve is coming.

It was a long wait ...... I was worried about the recent strange behavior of Azuki-chan and I was a bit uneasy as to whether I can enjoy today properly. On that day, we will meet at Harajuku station at 3 o'clock, eat Christmas cake at Oyamondo's stylish cafe, walk around Omotesando, watch the Christmas lights... exchange gifts ... It was what I planned.

Actually, I wish I could treat her for dinner, but I spent too much money on presents and clothes. I am sorry to Azuki for dinner, but dinner is at a cheaper place such as fast food and family restaurant.

While I am waiting for Azuki at Harajuku station, I remembered the day that I came to Harajuku with Koigasaki. But in a panic, I quickly erased the face of Koigasaki from my head. Today I have a date with my favorite girlfriend, Azuki.

Let's not think about other girls.

Anyway, I'm really worried about recent behavior of Azuki. I'll ask what happened to her again today. Since I am her boyfriend, I would like to help her about her situation if I can "Oh, Naoki! Thank you for waiting!"

Azuki arrived on time at the station looking stylish as usual and very cute. She usually wore makeup, but she has little makeup today.

"Oh, the place is here"

"Wow, that's fashionable! I usually do not enter such a place!"

When I brought her to the stylish cafe Gouranavi, which gave a high evaluation when I checked it, Azuki was impressed by the place.

"Thanks for bringing me here, Naoki!"

I was glad when I saw her rewarding with a smile and it was worth investigating. It is a little expensive for a cafe where coffee will cost as much as 500 yen, but today is special because it is Christmas. Of course, I will pay here. ..... As always, I was told that such a thing would be better.

While tasting the delicious cakes and coffee, enjoyable conversation blooms. I

thought that if Azuki's behavior is strange today, I would ask again what happened ... but my worry seemed useless, today Azuki seem to be having fun.

Look at her state, I also feel secure. A little over an hour, we left the cafe.

"I'm sorry, you treated again ... Are you ok with that?"

I pushed Azuki who insisted on paying over and over, managed it somehow, but Azuki looked carefully at my face.

"Do not worry because I want to do so!"

"Please don't overdo it, ok? Because I am very happy just because I can spend Christmas with Naoki ... Oh, that's right! I am going to treat you in our next date!"

The wild words of Azuki made me smile unexpectedly. We were walking around the streets of Omotesando with a dazzling view.

"It's very cold."

Azuki rubbed her hands in front of her face. Looking at her like that ... I swallowed hard and tensed up.

I wonder if I can kiss her today. I want to. I want to mess her up. We have not kissed since the day we went to the sea.

"Huh?"

I grabbed Azuki's left hand.

"Here ... this way, you will not be cold!"

"No, Naoki, you ...!!"

Azuki-chan seems surprised to see my face. Her hands were cold. Then we held hands while walking around Omotesando. Although there are crowds, I was proud and I am happier than any other boyfriend now. Hopefully ... I hope that Azuki also thinks so.

I was supposed to have held hands with Azuki-chan a few times, but now holding her hands like this ... ... It's such a painful thing that my body got hot, it's such a feeling, my heart pounding and will not stop ringing.

I think again. I am now ... happy.

When I entered senior high school, I wanted to have a girlfriend and have happy memories. Now ... ... that my dream has come true. She is different from the girl who I wanted in the beginning, but now I love her, Azuki.

I love her more than anyone else.

Eventually the sky becomes completely dark and the Christmas lights shine brilliantly.

"Wow, beautiful ..."

Azuki was impressed and she was taking photos of the lights. Azuki-chan looks much better than the lights ... The thoughts come to my mind, but I have stopped saying anything else as my heart is beating.

"Oh, that's right! Naoki ... Merry Christmas!"

Azuki offered the paper bag she had in front of me.

"Oh, thank you ...!!"

From when I saw her getting a paper bag today, I was hoping secretly ... ... but apparently my expectation has come true. Even though she gave a gift for my birthday, at Christmas she still ....

"Oh, can I open it?"

"Yeah, of course!"

What came out from inside was a fashionable navy blue knitted hat.

"Oh, knit cap!"

I took it and wore it on the spot.

"Oh, Naoki is cute ~! It looks nice!"

Azuki took a picture of me in the knit cap with her smartphone.

This ... Is this our Christmas memorial photograph?

"Because I am not confident about this gift ... together, we got it ..."

"... With ... Koigasaki?"

I remembered that I heard her say that she had picked up a gift with Koigasaki the muffler given to my birthday.

".....No....." As soon as the name of Koigasaki comes out, Azuki got a dark expression.

"What ... could you make up with me?"

Unintentionally, I heard it.

"No ... Momo-chan and I are not fighting."

"Well ... ... Is that so ...?"

But, since that day, I never saw them together .... If it is not a fight, what is it all about?

"Besides, it was around a week ago that we got gifts together"

"Well ... that, that's right ..."

It was about four days ago when two of us went to talk somewhere. In other words, ... ... It was before that day when we went to buy a gift together. "... ... Azuki-chan ... do you have something against Koigasaki?"

After all, I could not stop worrying.

"Recently ..... You are acting strange ...."

Azuki shows her embarrassment at my words.

"... Well don't worry .... I'm sorry .... I can't say anything to Naoki for now ...... I really am sorry"

Azuki turned down and apologized to me for making me feel sorry.

She cannot tell .....? What on earth is it? There is no doubt that something happened between Koigasaki and Azuki - chan ... Is that the secret between the two people?

"Oh, that's right ... ... you cannot say ... ... I do not mind ..."

I was worried very much, but as Azuki told me so, I could not ask anything more. I did not want Azuki to make such a look.

"Oh, that's right!"

In order to change the topic, I remembered that I had not handed my gift to Azuki - chan yet. I removed the backpack from my shoulder and take out a small

paper bag containing a present for Azuki - chan.

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"Oh .....!!, Naoki also got me a present ...!"
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Azuki raised her voice in surprise. I wonder why I was not surprised at the gifts that I got from her.

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"Wow ... ... Oh, thank you ... ... I'm sooo happy ...!!"
```

Azuki-chan seemed to be deeply impressed when she received my gift. By the way ... this is the first time for me to give a present to Azuki. Maybe that's why she was pleased ...... If you are happy with this, I would like to give more presents to Azuki-chan in the future. Next time will be Azuki's birthday next year ... No, before that it is White Day.

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"....., this is ... It's a very expensive brand!"
```

Looking at the brand logo written on emerald green paper bag, Azuki is panicking. Certainly, it was expensive. About 20,000 yen. That's why my money is already gone.

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"No, that's not a big deal ..."
```

Azuki-chan takes a box out of the paper bag looking excited.

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"Well, this is ... ... maybe ... ...."
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What came out of the box .....was a Ring.

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"I am ..... dreaming ..."
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Azuki is rigid, staring at the ring.

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"Try it"
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After looking at my eyes, Azuki picked up the ring from the box and gently stuck to the ring finger of the left hand. She raised her left hand to the level of her face.

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"Beautiful ..."
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Her eyes, tears were overflowing.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Even I know about this brand ..."

<sup>&</sup>quot;Try opening it, OK"

"Naoki Thank you. I'm sooooooo happy really, I am happy"	
Azuki keeps looking at the ring and shedding tears.	
"" I am the only one, so happy, so"	
"Huh?"	
Azuki muttered so with a small voice. I wonder why she was looking painful.	
"No, no when it was my birthday, you help me with the celebrations in return"	
Today, I wanted to give back to Azuki. To Azuki-chan who cheered me wher was swayed and underwater, I am so thankful that I can't express it with word	
"Naoki"	
Pic P123	
"I was very happy that you organized my birthday party It was such a gorgeous party, and you also baked a cake I really, thankful to Azuki-chan	
"Huh?"	
Blocking my words, I heard it as if Azuki was surprised.	
"Organized the party What is it about?"	
" My birthday party, didn't Azuki-chan organize it?"	
"Well no that party"	
"Momo-chan organized?"	
Azuki 's words, I suspected my ears.	
I was rooted on the spot and becomes immovable.	
That birthday party, Koigasaki organized? She did not say anything.	
Because she herself said clearly that Azuki was organized it.	
"Momo-chan planned it, reserved the place, called the guests"	
"Eh what Koigasaki herself said that the party was planned by Azuki"	ı

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"..... Eh! Momo-chan ... ... she said that!?"

Azuki was as surprised as me.

"Momo-chan ... ... told you that I organized... ...!"

"Oh, yes ......"

She is puzzled very much. At my reply, Azuki looked down her spicy face.

"Well ...... Momo, chan ..."

"!?"
```

Azuki-chan started tearing again while calling out the name of Koigasaki. However, this time I feel like the appearance is different. It was like being touched by a little bit ago .... Azuki's now seemed very spicy for some reason.

"Momo-chan .... Momo-chan always seems ... always support me and Naoki ...she gave over .... "

As I wipe her tears, Azuki keeps on.

"At that time .... even then ... I did not know the feelings of Momo-chan ..."

She seems to be talking to herself, not hearing anything.

"Azuki-chan ... are you okay?"

"... Sorry, ... suddenly ......"

I held Azuki 's shoulder and tried to appease her, but still tears kept flowing from Azuki – chan's eyes.

"After all, it is useless ..."

Azuki muttered small and small. I could not understand the meaning of that word.

"After all ... after all I am so happy ... It is useless .... No ..."

Azuki keeps talking while crying. My heart feels so hot and its getting hotter.

"Oh, Azuki-chan ... What can I do ...?"

I suddenly can't hide my embarrassment why she seems like this.

Azuki-chan seems to be surprised, for the first time, to know that Koigasaki

lied to me saying "It was Azuki-chan who organized the party" .... Why is she crying so hotly, I don't know for the moment.

Azuki suddenly ... took her body off of me. Her shoulder was freed from my grasp.

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"Azuki-chan ...??"
  "Naoki, sorry ... I, I ... ...."
  "I want to be alone for a while, there is something I want to think about..."
  ".....Huh?"
 Azuki cried, but looking at my eyes straight, ... with a serious look that way.
  I did not understand the meaning of her words.
  "Sorry, I really am sorry ... Naoki did nothing bad ... only ... ...."
  "What ... What do you mean?"
  "... I want to go away ... ... I want to be alone .... Naoki staying with me ... ...
not good ..."
  "......Puh.....?"
 The inside of my head gets pure white in a moment. Do you want to be
alone? Would not you stay with me?
  ... ... we will break up ... ... what?
  ".....I'm terribly sorry!"
  "Oh ......Azuki-chan ..."
 Then Azuki turned and ran away from me.
  If I chased after her, I might have caught up.
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But ... I could not afford that kind of thing.

Azuki's words circles around my head.

I am being dumped ....?

That was not definite. But she wanted to be alone, she said that she wanted some space.

The meaning Azuki – chan's words ... I did not understand what she was thinking at all.

I was left behind alone under the twinkling Christmas lights. I can't do anything, I am just standing.

Suddenly, my tears came.

## **Chapter 7**

Mail came from Azuki-chan while I am on the train on the way home that day.

"Thank you for today. And, I'm really sorry."

Her e-mail was too short and my heart was more and more upset. I got off the train and called her, but she did not answer the phone.

"I do not know why Azuki-chan said such a thing at all. I want to talk properly.

I sent an email but there was never a reply from her that day.

When I got home, there was no one. By the way, today my father came back to Tokyo for a vacation and I remembered that everyone said that they would go out for dinner. I felt like having a conversation with someone, so I feel.

I don't feel watching TV or playing a game; I was hungry but I did not eat anything; I just went straight to my the room and fell on the bed.

Why.....? Why, Azuki chan ... ... You seemed so happy.... Weren't you delighted with my present. You said You love me, I said that I love you the most in the world. Do you want to be alone while keeping a distance? I do not understand your meaning at all. I do not understand Aki-chan at all. Why won't you answer your phone? Can't you send me an e-mail? I got a little angry. But more than that ... ... It was very sad.

I noticed, I was crying. My pillow was wet with tears. Azuki's words came smiling, crying running round my head.

I checked my cellphone, I do not have any missed calls or email. I called her again. However, after many rings, I got connected to an answering machine.

I kept crying on the bed without entering the bath and soon after, I fell asleep.

"Wow! Sleeping in late, sleeping with clothes on! I don't believe it!"

The next morning, Akari came into my room, looks at me and gives a surprised voice. By the way yesterday, I did sleep without changing my clothes.

As soon as I got up, I remembered yesterday's events and felt depressed at once. And in a panic, take out my cell phone. ..... E-mail, no phone, no.

"Your eyes...your eyes are swollen ... but what!? Why?" Ignoring the noisy Akari, I just lied on bed.

"What happened?"

Akari asked me little seriously ...

Perhaps, she is worried about me a little? I appreciate your thought ... ... but I did not want to talk about yesterday's events with Akari. If I told her that I was dumped ... I feel like I will not be able to recover. I did not want to think that we will break up until the words came out of Azuki 's mouth.

Thinking a little calmly after the night, the appearance of Azuki at that time was obviously unusual ... and so on.

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"Nothing but ... ...."
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".....? But what ...?"

"I just feel like despairing now"

"... Ha ..... So there is something! Was that something related to Azuki-san ....?"

.....! Surprisingly sharp, this sister .....

"Ah ... well ... just a bit, like we had a quarrel ..."

That's right ... this is like a quarrel ..... We did not break up. I mean, I would want to die if I thought so.

"... Well, if you do not want to talk,"

After Akari said such a thing, she sat down on the spot. And she started playing games on a handheld.

"What ... you, what game are you playing ...?"

"Akari will let you play games after Naoki will buy "Bakemon Y" because Akari bought "Bakemon X"

"... not for a while, don't have any money"

Akari ... Knows that I am depressed, will still stay in my room? Are you a cancer? ... No, no, I thought too much ... .... This sister can never worry. I'm an idiot.

Someone knocked and the door opened.

"Oh, Naoki: It's been a while," It was my father who I last saw after a few months.

"Oh, long time no see ..." "Well, take care of Akari for me. When I go to the store, do you want something for me to buy?"

"Bakemon Y!"

Akari answers vigorously.

"Bakemon -! I just bought one!"

"Bakemon X", Akari did not buy it herself, she got it from dad? Well, I do not want to buy one on my own as I have no spending money.

Even after my father left, Akari kept playing games in my room. Meanwhile, Akari is still a fujioshi. She is crazy about it, so I did not have any conversation with her at all, but I feel lighter since I am no longer alone in my room.

I was on the bed without doing anything for a long time, I only thought about Azuki-chan. Then I got off bed and surfed the net on my personal computer.

In the meantime I checked my cell phone again and again, but I nothing from Azuki-chan.

I tried calling again once. Sure enough, she did not answer.

After that, I looked at the cell phone for a while, since I was not charging the cell phone yesterday, so the power was off. ... ... No, rather ... ... If you care about getting messages much but is certain to receive 0 messages, it might be better to leave the phone off. So, I decided to leave the power off as is.

The next day.

"Su ... Suzuki, another cup of water!" I was complaining to Suzuki while I was drinking at Suzuki 's house in the daytime. After thinking about it, I only have this guy to complain about my situation. To Koigasaki ... It was hard to talk

about this to her.

Azuki seemed to have been suffering like Koigasaki like that ... ....

"Kashii ... well ... you can get drunk with calpis ..."

While pouring Calpis and mineral water into my glass, Suzuki is amazed.

"I can't stop drinking this!"

While complaining, I was drinking water ( \* of Calpis).

"But maybe Kashii did something unconsciously ... ..."

"I have not done anything! ... .... Maybe ... Oh, Azuki-chan ... I was saying that I was not bad ... ..."

"Well, Kashii's former girlfriend may think differently from you ......"

"..... ex-girlfriend! Don't say anything stupid! We haven't broken up! Not yet!"

I shake the shoulders of Suzuki who made the noisy remark to correct him.

"Ha ha ... that's fine ... although I have a good feeling about girls ..."

If it is the usual me, I would have made a comment about that, but I said nothing as I was drunk for the moment (alcohol should affect me ...)

"I'm ... I'm so weak..."

"What are you talking about, Kashii? Come on, are you coming to the Winter Comiket?"

Somehow it was devastating a topic quite a while ... .... When I heard the word Winter comiket, my head is completely white.

"Well then, I definitely go! Together with Murasaki!"

Koigasaki promised me to go with Azuki-chan with Nikaido's circle ... I instantly remembered. Also, I promised that I will take pictures of the Ayuko's Momiko's cosplay. "Oooooooooooooooo"

Unexpectedly, I dropped on the table and moaned. That promise ... ... I cannot fulfilled it now.

"What! What's up!?"

And I was looking forward to that .... Oh I'm about to die.

"No ... Nothing ... ... so far I have no plans to go to Winter comiket, especially

"Oh, you're not going? Well if you do go, it is best to get new read doujinshi and it will refresh you in various ways! I want to go on the second day and the third day."

Winter comiket .... As Suzuki says, it is better to buy doujinshi and to forget even a little of this sorrow...?

"Ah ... no, it's impossible, I, no money."

My present money is just a thousand yen. I think I can get some New Year allowance but the winter comiket is at the end of this month, before New Year 's Day. Also, you have to think about transportation and food expenses.

"Er, is that so? Oh ... that's bad ... ...."

"May I borrow money?"

"Ha ha! I definitely hate to borrow money to buy coterie magazines!"

Ha, now I have nothing. I do not have love nor money. If there is no money, I can't heal my bruised heart ...... I came home from Suzuki 's house.

"Welcome back ... you left your cell phone home, didn't you?"

Okaa-san called to me while making dinner in the kitchen.

"Oh, ah ... ...."

As I have been keeping the phone off since yesterday, I left it on my house without carrying it around today. I looked at my cell phone. Perhaps ... ... Azukichan sent a message while the power was off. I inserted a charger into my cell phone and pushed the power button. The cell vibrated.

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"Two new mails"
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"Wow! --!"

Okaa-san looks at me strangely who instinctively raised my voice.

New mail ... ... Is it from Azuki-chan ... ....

But ... my expectations crumbled down in a moment. Both of the two e-mails were not from Azuki-chan. One sender was Murasaki and the other came from Yamamoto who is a brother of Hasegawa who is a part-time senior in the place where I work.

First, I open the mail from Murasaki.

It was addressed to me and Azuki-chan with simultaneous transmission.

"Good evening \int The winter comiket third day where Anna-senpai and Momo joined is almost here. Where do you like to meet? Can you go from morning?"

Right ... Murasaki does not know that I and Azuki are in this state ... or even I was even dating. It's natural, because I have not said anything.

Incidentally Murasaki will participate in the circle as a Toho genre on the second day of the winter comiket, and in the third day of the winter comiket where Nikaido and Koigasaki will also participate for the first time.

Looking at the transmission date and time it was yesterday night. I wonder if Azuki is already replying to this mail. I wonder what she will do. In this situation ignoring contact from me, going to winter comiket with me ... absolutely not possible ..... I want to go with her, of course ... I mean, I'd like to meet Azukichan ... ....

For the time being, I left the message and opened the mail from Mr. Yamamoto.

"Kashiwada-kun, but suddenly on the 31st of this month ... ... On New Year's Eve, everyone will go to town for a year-end party. I would like Kashiwada-san to participate by all means "

A year-end party with my co-workers .... I never went to any before .... At least, I will be able to talk to Yamamoto or Aya Watanabe about my situation and I can chat with other byte from work even for a little .... If this is a drinking party, you may be able to speak to more people. If this is so, I have a feeling that I may want to participate for a while.

But ... wait. The 31st of this month ... ... It is the third day of winter comiket! My schedule for winter vacation is mostly blank except for work, but for this day the invitation is scheduled ....

No ... But I have no money at all. Of course it is impossible for me to go to winter comiket, as well as attend a year-end party. I am miserable indeed ....

I decided to refuse both invitations First ... I sent a reply to Murasaki who sent the e-mail earlier.

"Good evening! Sorry for the late reply. I am super sorry; I am unlikely to go to winter comic because I absolutely have no money .... Have fun for me, everyone. " (>\_<)

I promised I will go with Koigasaki ... I wanted to see a little seller trying her best ... ... I am also concerned about the finished products of the joint magazine sales.

When I thought about such things, the phone suddenly rang. Murasaki is calling me.

I hurriedly walked up the stairs and took the call.

"Hello!"

"Good evening, Kashiwada, are you free now?"

"Yes, it is okay!"

"There is something I was a bit concerned about... is it all right to ask?"

"Oh!? Yes, ... ...."

What was worrisome? I guess it is.

"Kashiwada and Azuki ... is there anything going on?"

"Whaaa!"

I was suddenly asked something straight and my voice broke down unexpectedly.

"In the case of winter comiket, a reply came from Azuki, too .... The content was a bit incomprehensible. I'm sorry but this time I would like to be alone, so please have fun with Murasaki and Kashiwada, By the contents .... "

"Well!"

Azuki-chan, you are saying that ... .... But, of course it may be natural. Azuki is



"Um ... I, whatever, I can't go to winter comiket so I can't go with Azukichan. Because she don't want to meet me and I don't want to go alone as well."

"Kashiwada ..."

"So ... Please give my regards and support to Koigasaki and Nikaido"

"... Kashiwada, is that enough? I think It would be better to talk to Azuki properly ... Besides, I think that Momo would be delighted if you went to see Momo's situation personally ... and if it's about money, you don't have to worry about a thing."

".....eh!?"

I am surprised by Murasaki's words. Don't worry about money? What does Murasaki mean!?

"No ... no, I will take care of my money problem ... Azuki-chan, I think I will never go there if she knows I am going. As a good Otaku, I will try to attend the third day of winter comiket ... "

I don't know what's going on between the two of them now ... ... Still, even as I promised "I definitely will go!" to Koigasaki, I will not go without Azuki.

"Is that so....."

Murasaki feels sorry.

"Winter Comiket on the same day ... ... Azuki's true feelings ... I will do my best to find out. Of course, I want to hear everything from Kashiwada."

"Are you serious!?"

"Yes, I may not be able to do anything, but ..."

"Murasaki-san ... ... Thank you. Why, why ... ... do you help us so much?"

Her offer was very appreciated, but I wondered why she would do so.

"Why ... ... ... That's right ... Kashiwada-san ... I want you to be smiling..."

"..... つ!?"

Murasaki 's words made me blush unexpectedly. Lucky that I was on the phone and she couldn't see my face.

... What did she mean by that ... ...?

"If you have any request for me, so please do not hesitate to say so"

"Wha...what ... ...!?"

I wonder if she is kidding me as usual?

But I can't get the feeling that she is playing from her words.

"And also I am worried about Azuki-san, and I will anything put you in the right direction, so please be relieved."

"Murasaki ..."

I then heard my name being called from the lower floor. Apparently, it's time for dinner.

"Oh, I am sorry, I called you at dinner .... Kashiwada-san ... Well, please do not be discouraged. There is probably something wrong with Azuki-san .... However, people's feelings will not change easily."

"Murasaki ... Thank you!"

I was crying tears because of her kind words.

After dinner, I sent a reply to Yamamoto's mail.

"Thank you for the invitation! I'd like to go to the year-end party by all means, but I am not able to participate because I am short of money here ... .... Sorry" (T\_T)

As soon as I sent it, a reply came.

"Thank you for your reply. Don't worry about the money! I will take care of Kashiwada as appreciation of your care in the past. Therefore, I want Kashiwada to come."

I was surprised to read Yamamoto's reply. Murasaki and Yamamoto are both nice ... ... The adults around me are really nice people .... However, I accepted Yamamoto's invitation as a favor to him.

Then, three days passed.

Azuki did not keep touching as usual.

I spent a winter break without fun; going to work or lazing at home, although I was encouraged a bit by Murasaki's words, my heart was still deeply hurt but not as much before as I was able to recover a bit.

And on the 31st ... ... the date of my work's year-end party.

Azuki - chan, Koigasaki and Murasaki are going to winter comiket today ...... I hope. I wonder if Koigasaki will do her best in selling. I wonder if Azuki and Murasaki will arrive safely together.

After my separation from Azuki-chan, I became lethargic to everything, and I was not paying attention to my clothes and have not trimmed my eyebrows for about a week.

However, as many people will attend the year-end party, I thought that I could not go with my bad appearance so I fixed my eyebrows and set my hair as before.

Oh ... it's bad timing for Mr. Yamamoto who invited me .... In truth, I wanted to go to Winter Comiket .... Of course there was a feeling of regret for going to the party but I decided that I have to do this. I could not keep my promise with Koigasaki and Azuki - chan .... No, they didn't care about promises with me anyway.

But ..... I think it's kind of strange feeling. The Gyaru Koigasaki is a selling a doujin in winter comiket and me the Otaku ... is not going to winter comiket but attending an office party.

This strange reversal of roles.... "Oh, Kashiwada, you're here!"

When I arrived at the office party, there were already a few people inside including Yamamoto. He greets me with a smile. The others also gave greetings. Some of their faces I don't recognize.

"Yamamoto, thank you very much for today."

"No, no, I am glad that you came."

Eventually the people gathered, so we went to the pub that is the venue for the year-end party. We are about ten people. I wonder if I can interact with these people .....? I feel uneasy now.

We sat down at the table that we reserved. I went with the flow and got a seat on the right seat of the table ....

"Ah....."

Watanabe Aya was sitting in front of me.

"Oh, Kashiwagi kun, you're here!"

"No, it's Kashiwada!"

This woman ... Did she make the mistake on purpose?

But ... Yamamoto-san next to me, so he can be the one to speak first; I feel a little relieved. Tomorrow, the possibility of becoming stupid is ... low, yo.

Ordering drinks, high school students get soft drinks! As Yamamoto probably the oldest guy in this, sourly told everyone. I ordered orange juice.

Our drinks came and eventually we toasted. After a while, I was talking to the Yamamoto. The content of our conversation, of course, is Hasegawa.

"Oh, by the way, have you heard from the Hase ... Midori? About us three meeting in the future?"

I remembered Hasegawa telling me about this in the past.

"No ... nothing, nothing from Midori ..."

I was surprised at Yamamoto's question. Does it mean that Hasegawa had told him and suggested that we meet together....

"Oh, is that so?"

As we are talking, I don't think that our situation with Hasegawa is strange, but ... I wonder what happened since then. Recently I have been talking less frequently with Hasegawa than before, and because I try not to follow with Hasegawa's eyes ...

Anyway, as we talked about this, it seems that the state of Yamamoto and Hasegawa was normal and that we wanted to meet with Hasegawa. Hasegawa tells Yamamoto and me about it.

"That's right .... I also want to see you both at the same time. Honestly ..... I still feel nervous when Midori is in front of me, so it will be better for me to have Kashiwada by my side isn't it? I guess that's what I have in mind ... "

"That's right, was not it ..... Hasegawa suggested that ....."

We are seriously talking about Hasegawa ... ....

"Aya do you have a boyfriend?"

"Er, no I don't, do you know anyone who is good?"

Watanabe Aya whispers to my ears even though she was asked by the college boy student sitting next to her (I think his name is Mr. Kudo). It is quite irritating to hear her speak to me with a shrill voice with a different attitude from when she usually talk to me.

This person ..... Saying something like this before Yamamoto something, "Is there anyone who is good?" Well really.....

"Well, Kashiwagi's girlfriend was here. She is super cute!"

"Huh!"

I almost blow out my orange juice. Watanabe Aya suddenly took up this topic. Besides, she made a mistake in my name again. Is this guy totally doing this on purpose?

"Well, is that so !?"

Kudo, the college student sitting next to Aya Watanabe, was surprised.

By the way, I did not talk to Aya Watanabe after what happened with Azukichan.

"Ara ara! Aya told us that she saw Kashiwada walking with girls, was that really her!?"

Another female college student Takahashi who was sitting next to the university student Kudo has joined the conversation.

Watanabe Aya ..... It certainly said that Aya saw us walking a couple of times, but she sounded like it happened a while ago!

"It seems that Kashiwada has cute girlfriend"

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"Oh, really?"
"Err ..."
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More people around me are listening to the story. Oh this is bad ... I wonder whether she is out of communication because she is on a date ... that is a suspicious state ... ....

"Kashiwada, you ... do you have a girlfriend!?"

Even Yamamoto who is next to me asked me seriously as he looked at my face.

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"Oh, well ... ... Yes ... ..."
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Anyway, we have not broken up yet, so I made an affirmation.

"Is that so ... I thought ... no ... "

He spoke of something and soon stopped. What was that you were about to say ....?

"Hey, do you have a picture of her?"

Watanabe Aya asks me with a grin. If it's just a photo ... it is still on my wall.

But ... ... If I put out the photo here, it will definitely be seen by everyone! No, I am proud of her. I don't mind others seeing the cute images of cute Azuki. If I was doing well with Azuki-chan now, I might have been shining, and I could have shown the image with pride. But unfortunately ... our relationship is not going well right now. Showing them the image will make me sadder.

"No ... actually ... we are not communicating."

I tried not to be affected by it. I thought lying would make this feeling worse so I told them the truth. "Huh ..... seriously?"

"What! No communication!?"

People who I talked to for the first time today are discussing my story. Ah ...... I have become a drinker's topic! It has become a very hot topic. I want to hide my private life from those not familiar to me. Today I also came to know someone who also works here part time like me.

"Wow, that's youth! It sounds like a super love love! Why are you not

talking!? Did you have a fight?"

"No, actually ... on our date last Christmas Eve, she suddenly went home ..."

"On Christmas, ohhh that sucks!"

"Did you do anything that made her angry?"

"No, I do not remember doing anything like that ...!!"

I am a bit perplexed by reactions of my co-workers. It is rare for me to talk to a lot of people about this that has become the center topic ...

"Kashiwada-kun, you should drink right now! Drink now!

"No, no, I am still a high school student ..."

The discussion about the topic of Azuki-chan not talking is getting out of hand.

I was very comfortable .... When they talk about Azuki-chan, I became sadder

Oh ... Someday I wish I could make a funny story about today. I will remember that ~! Well, there was a time during our Christmas office party ....

"Oh, my friend seems to have arrived now."

Suddenly Watanabe Aya told me while looking at her cell phone.

"Oh, that pretty child! Aya, did you call her?"

Kudo, the college student sitting next to her, happily reported to Aya

"friend?"

I asked Aya Watanabe.

"Yeah, it's a friend from school. We have been to some of stores several times in the past, and since Mr. Kudo likes her, he asked that I invite her here."

Oh ... it's a friend from Aya Watanabe's school .... Well, no matter how pretty she is, I'm a little bad mood now. I have been out of touch!

"Aya's school in Nakayama is an all-girls school right?"

"Err, totally"

Oh, Aya Watanabe goes to an all-girls school ...? She is comfortable around

men so I thought she went to a co-ed school.

"Oh, here she is, Kizuna, here we are!"

Watanabe Aya stands up and waves her hands towards the girl who entered the store. ... Her name sounds familiar ....

"Thanks for waiting ... was it really okay for me to come?"

The girl rushes to Aya Watanabe, then she asks uneasily.

She really is cute but ...?

"... Oh, Oikawa .....? "

I remembered her name.

"Oh .....? ....!! Kashiwada!"

Looking at my face, she ... was surprised and raised her voice.

I will never forget her, even if I want to forget, I can't forget her... familiar face. She was the one in middle school... my first crush ....

There is no mistaking Oikawa Kizuna.

"Well, are you two acquainted?"

"Yeah, we went to the same middle school ... ... I don't believe it ..."

Oikawa who is staring at my face, is surprised at heart.

I can't believe it either. No way ... I never dreamed of meeting her again in such a place. Rather ... I thought I would never meet her again.

"Really, meeting for the first time after a long time ... Kashiwada: Aya, working in the same place... we never saw one another ... ... surprising."

**Pic P143** 

"Because Kashiwagi works basically Saturdays and Sundays only, which is why you never saw each other."

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"Oh, yeah ...."
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"Oh, is it ok for me to sit here?"

Oikawa said to Aya who is sitting next to college student Kudo.

"Oh, it's OK, I do not care!"

Aya says happily.

Oikawa sat next to Aya Watanabe, right in front of me.

Kudo, the college student sitting across Aya Watanabe, seems to be unable to talk to Oikawa, due to his surprise.

"I was surprised, are you two friends!?"

Aya asked and I answered with a grin.

Until second grade of middle school ..... Although we did not get along well, we talked normally.

But ... when I heard that Oikawa was talking behind my back, I started to avoid Oikawa, and then I stopped talking to her altogether.

"Well, we were not close, I was in class for only two years."

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"..., ... Ah, ah ... ... That's right ..."
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I pretend to be as calm as possible and agreed with Oikawa's words ... but my heart was terribly upset. Since I avoided her, we became estranged ... ... For three years we have never talked. I was surprised that I was able to meet her again and more than that, I did not to talk to her again. Even if I came to a class reunion, I think that I would not be able to have a conversation with her absolutely.

Seeing her after a long time ... she is still cute. When we were in middle school, her black hair was semi-long, but now she has brown hair and Bob cut.

"But isn't it cute when two middle school students have a reunion?

"Stop it, what are you saying!?"

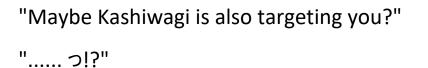
Oikawa is surprised by the words of Aya Watanabe.

"How about you, Kashiwagi kun?"

"Ohhhhhhhhhhhhh ... I certainly might be motivated ..."

By the way, I remember that Oikawa's pretty cute.

"What are you saying Kashiwada, what ...?"



Watanabe Aya is saying jokes without thinking ... I almost spat out my orange juice (second cup).

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"...."
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Unintentionally, though it seems look like I am awful ... I think for a moment. What are you talking about here, that's not it! In other words, it is doubtful, and if a man at the level of me is saying such a thing, it probably will be messed up.

"Well, about you ... No, because you were an unreachable person to me."

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".....!?"
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Oikawa looks at my face in surprise. Eh ... what the heck was that reaction ....

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"... ... something about ... Kashiwada ... ...."
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Oikawa speaks while looking at my face.

"He has changed from the time during middle school .... His appearance has changed a lot but ... the way he speaks and the aura ... Looks like a different person from before."

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".....eh!?"
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I am surprised by the words of Oikawa and raised my voice. Changed? Me? What does she mean? Is it a good meaning or is it a bad meaning ...?.

Today's secretary spoke and broke up the year-end party. Everyone stood up and started walking towards the exit.

I missed the timing to ask Oikawa what she meant ... .... Oh, I fucked up ... ....

"Hey, if it's okay with you, won't you go to the second party?"

When I left the pub, I heard that college student Kudo invited Oikawa to the second party. Looks like he missed his chance to speak to her because of me (I'm to blame ... ...), I guess he will try again in the second party.

"Well, sorry I cannot ... I told my parents that I won't be out too late ... ... Ah, Kashiwada!"

Oikawa cried out to me as I came out of the pub.

"Are you going to the second party?"

"Oh, oh ... I don't know ......"

I am told that my parents will be late, so I cannot go, but ... what shall I do.

"I'd like to talk to you some more so won't you come with me to the second party? If not, can we walk to the station together?"

"eh.....!?"

I am surprised at Oikawa's words.

"Well, Aya will go to the second party, Kashiwagi, thank you for coming."

Aya Watanabe speaks to me so. Well, I guess that you don't mind me not going to the second party? Well, I do not mind myself ....

"Oh, you're not going to the second party Kashiwada?"

Yamamoto said disappointingly but as I was supposed to return with Oikawa, I thanked Yamamoto again and went along with Oikawa to the station.

...... What is Oikawa thinking? Let's go home together .... When we became alone, my heart rate began to rise more than ever and I realized I was nervous.

"Kashiwada, you go to Fujimi High School?"

"Yes, that's right ... how do you know that?"

"Oh, I heard someone from middle school goes there."

Naturally, coming from the same middle school, me and Oikawa went on the same train.

"Oikawa goes to Nakayama? The same as Watanabe?"

"Yes, Kashiwada is friends with Aya?"

"Well, no .... we hardly speak to each other."

While having not love conversation, we arrived at the local station in no time.

"Which way is Kashiwada's house?"

"The south entrance ... ...."

```
"Seriously? I am going to the North Exit ... Kashiwada, do you still have a little
time now?"
  "eh!?"
  I am surprised again by Oikawa's words.
  "Oikawa ... ... Are you going to be fine, did not you say your parents said not
be out too late?"
  "Oh, I kinda lied, I said that I might be out today."
  ..... What? Why lie ...?
  "Well I also have no curfew ..."
  "Let's talk a little bit,"
  "Huh.....?"
  "There is a bench in the north entrance square"
  "Oh, ah ... ...."
 Just speaking ... is good, isn't it ...? You don't have an affair now, right .....?
Oikawa seems to want to tell me something ... ....
  ..... I don't know if we have broken up already, so it may be ridiculous for me
to worry about something like this ....
  Anyway, Oikawa, what on earth do you want to talk about? Well, I'm worried
about the words you said a little while ago .... What did you mean by that.
  While walking out the north entrance ..... I check my cell phone. Anyway, I do
not expect to hear from Azuki-chan, but ... ....
  ".....eh!?"
  I looked at my cell phone and unexpectedly raised my voice.
  ..... two incoming calls.
  "Oh, Kashiwada, what's the matter?"
  I opened my cell phone in a hurry ...
  "Incoming Koigasaki"
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"Incoming Sakurai Azuki"
"Wha um!? I raised my voice in spite of myself.
"What, what?"
"Sorry, Oikawa! I need to make a call!"
"eh!?"
"I'm really sorry, I was glad to talk to you after a long time! Well, it's already dark, so be careful on your way home!"
"Huh"
I thanked Oikawa who is stunned and left the spot.

Then, making a deep breath... ... I pressed the call button.